

Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 8

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

April 28, 2010

HOHENFELS

On the job

During Job Shadow Day, children gain a better understanding of what their parents do “in the Box”

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GARMISCH

An FRG first

One military spouse steps forward and starts the first family readiness group in Garmisch

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ANSBACH

At your service

Thanks to a new taxi project, getting around town just got easier for residents living on-post

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SCHWEINFURT

Quite a catch

ODR's fishing class gives folks ample opportunity to work on their fish tales

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Spousal support

The U.S. Army and military at-large will recognize the contributions of military spouses, May 6 and 7, with a host of events in the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities.

See page 12 for details.

Going postal

Postal customers should be aware of customs' regulations when sending and receiving mail through their Army Post Office (APO) address.

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When in Rome ...

Travelers have their work cut out for them in this ancient city.

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GTA nabs conservation award

by Dr. Rolf D. Baldus

*CIC-International Council for
Game and Wildlife Conservation*

This year the prestigious Edmond Blanc Prize of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation will be awarded to the Grafenwoehr Federal Forestry and Military Training Area in Bavaria, Germany.

“We award the Federal Forestry Enterprise for its exemplary achievements in the intensively used Grafenwoehr military training area in conserving the habitats of numerous valuable animal and plant species, especially through

hunting measures. Their management of red deer, Germany's largest game species, which is guided by biological, ecological and economic principles, is outstanding.

“And at the same time German hunting traditions, a cultural heritage which is well worth to be preserved, are practiced,” said Dr. Nicolas Franco, president of the International Jury.

In this context, the high number of the red deer has a very important ecological function for the conservation of this especially valuable open landscape. The Forestry Enterprise had been proposed by the German CIC Delegation.

Edmond Blanc Diplomas will go to the “Fritzoee Estate” in Norway and to “The

Palosaari Wildlife Management and Education Estate” in Pyhaejoki, Finland. The awards will be presented at the General Assembly of the CIC in May in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

The Federal Forestry Office at Grafenwoehr will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year, which is also the “International Year of Biodiversity.” The enterprise is responsible for the management of natural resources – land, forests and wildlife – in the

See TRAINING AREA, page 25



Grafenwoehr Elementary fifth-graders Gabriela Shimkus, left, and Diana Barta build a bird's nest during the Earth Day celebration at the Main Post Exchange, April 22.

Local students demonstrate recycling skills on Earth Day

Story and photos by
Molly Hayden
Staff Writer

Kermit the Frog proclaimed it “ain't easy being green,” but community members learned otherwise during the Earth Day celebration at the Main Post Exchange, April 22.

The 2010 observance marked the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, which is celebrated worldwide to deepen reverence and care for the environment. The first Earth Day event started the largest grass-roots movement in U.S. history and created what has since become an environmental movement.

See EARTH DAY, page 25



Justice Rivera, 8, tests his recycling I.Q. by properly disposing of a cardboard box during a sorting game in celebration of Earth Day at the Main Post Exchange, April 22.

NSPS takes a bow, makes its exit stage left

Story and photos by
Jeremy S. Buddemeier
Editor

The National Security Personnel System is giving its final performance. Don't expect a reunion tour.

With the stroke of a pen six months ago, President Barack Obama effectively killed the pay-for-performance system that had sparked many-a-discussion around office water coolers in the past few years.

Department of Defense activities have until Jan. 1, 2012, to transition back to the General Schedule (GS) system. Most will complete the process by September of this year. Locally, the Civilian Human Resources Agency, which includes Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers, will transi-

tion May 9; U.S. Army Europe, May 23; and Installation Management Command, August 15.

At an NSPS transition briefing, April 14, Mike Masko, acting director, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, informed civilian employees on what they could expect under the GS system.

“You're not going to lose any pay,” Masko said, reassuring the audience in Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater. However, he stressed that the GS equivalent grade level of the employee's position, not his or her pay, determines the grade that person will transition to as a GS employee.

Employees whose pay falls below their respective GS grade level will receive the salary of Step 1 in that grade

level.

For instance, Employee X works as a YA-2 under NSPS in a GS-9 equivalent position and makes \$40,000. Based on the current GS pay scale chart, she will transition as a GS-9, Step 1, with a salary of 41,563. (Since she is working in a GS-9 level position and her pay falls below the GS-9, Step 1 minimum, her salary is increased to the first step in that grade level.)

Sheri Robinson, a Domestic Appliance Program manager for IMCOM's Host Nation Liaison Field Operating Activity, will be in a similar situation, but as a GS-11, when she transitions to GS later this summer. At the briefing, she was concerned about when her time in grade would begin. Time in grade refers to the amount of time employees must wait within a particular

step before receiving a pay increase.

Masko said Robinson's two years of experience as a GS-11 could be used when she applied for another job, but would not count toward her step increase.

Under NSPS, pay pools met annually to determine how shares, and thus raises and bonuses, would be distributed between employees based on their performance. In contrast, GS employees must complete a “waiting period” before they move to the next higher step and receive a pay increase. In addition, each year the president usually authorizes a pay increase for all federal employees.

In January 2010, GS employees received an overall average pay increase of 2 percent.

See NSPS, page 25

‘Extras’ shine for movie in Garmisch

by John Reese

USAG Garmisch Public Affairs

In early March, a casting assistant from a Berlin film studio inquired if members of the USAG Garmisch community were interested in being extras in a joint German-British comedy called “Chalet Girl.”

The “baroness,” a descendant of German nobility with the “von” before her family name, said she needed native English speakers for two major scenes: a fancy dress ball that was supposed to be in London, and a crowd watching a ski and snowboard competition atop the Zugspitze. It didn't matter that the accents would be from the United States instead of United Kingdom, or that the company was also advertising in the Garmisch area media for extras. Extras were needed to fill in the scenes.

The word went out to the Garmisch community first, and then to other U.S. and British army garrisons across Europe. About 120 Americans from Garmisch quickly answered the casting call and more came from afar. All of them were required to submit a photo dressed in evening attire.

“I sent in my picture in my formal kilt with black-tie and dinner jacket,” said Thomas Hays, deputy garrison manager, U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch. “The staffer from the movie who called me was quite excited about it and I think it helped get me the invitation.”

Hays' highlander kit is a familiar sight at formal events in Garmisch and Grafenwoehr. A Scottish local national Armed Forces Recreation Center employee in formal kilt and about 10 others who stood out were also selected for closer shots.

A total of 60 applicants from the garrison, George C. Marshall Center and Edelweiss Hotel and Resort were selected as extras to film the ballroom scene, April 8. The majority of the extras would be filmed later for the outdoor competition scene. For their time, the extras were paid a small sum and received breakfast and lunch.

The week before filming began

See EXTRAS, page 25

Resiliency keeps Soldiers from ‘breaking’

Resilience is the ability to bounce back in the face of adversity ... it's mental toughness. Webster defines resilience as "the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress" and "an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change."

The strength of our nation is only as strong as the Soldiers, families and civilians that courageously support and defend it. Over the last eight years, more than one million Soldiers have deployed to combat, more than 3,900 Soldiers have sacrificed their lives, and more than 25,000 have been wounded in service to our country.

Army units and families across the globe are relocating in compliance with the Base Realignment and Closure Law, and we continue to transform our business practices. To remain strong in this dynamic environment, leaders must proactively maintain and develop resiliency programs and services to enable the total Army Community (Soldiers, civilians, families and retirees) to maintain healthy relationships and happy lives.

Our approach to supporting resiliency for the Army Community is to enhance their ability to adapt to stress by supporting, maintaining and develop-



ing programs and services that promote total wellness. As I have said before, I am convinced that the Army spends too much time fixing Soldiers after they break, evidenced by the rise in suicide and substance abuse rates. We should be spending our time, energy and resources to make the Army Community resilient to prevent them from breaking.

We will use the Public Health Model of assessment, education, intervention and treatment to integrate and deliver services to help prevent Soldiers, civilians and families from breaking.

By applying this model before a crisis happens we will be better able to keep the Army Community strong in all dimensions of resiliency.

Individuals must be fit mentally, physically and spiritually to achieve optimum resilience. The Installation Management Community will provide the best care, support and services for the Army Community by improving quality of life through initiatives, such as the Army Family Action Plan, the Army Family Covenant, Army Community Covenants, the Installation Management Campaign Plan and the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program.

When I was the senior commander at Fort Hood, Texas, I built a Resiliency Campus to enable the Army Community to become resilient before deployments, during deployments and to solve many other challenges faced by Army families.

Other IMCOM garrisons are also focusing on resiliency. Fort Bliss, Texas, has a Restoration and Re-

silience Center that offers a Warrior Resilience Program and a Family Resilience Program. Fort Jackson, S.C., is opening a Master Resilience Training school that will offer a 10-day Master Resilience Training Course to equip leaders to teach coping skills to unit members. At Fort Campbell, Ky., the Family Resiliency Council has teamed up with key organizations to be one of the first installations to publish an online resource guide to provide accurate and accessible information to Soldiers, families and civilians. These are but a few initiatives underway dedicated to enhancing Soldier, civilian and family resilience.

The strain of multiple deployments and other stress factors may continue into the future.

Therefore, I challenge leaders and personnel throughout the Army Community to think of new ideas to enhance installation resiliency initiatives and to send your ideas to your installation leadership or me. I also challenge each of you to take advantage of existing programs and services on your installation and in your community to remain mentally, physically, and spiritually fit.

The Army Community is strength of our nation, and IMCOM garrisons are the Army's home!

*Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Commander, Installation
Management Command*

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Grafenwoehr grows via Efficient-Basing projects

The Grafenwoehr military community has undergone a tremendous amount of change in the last few years. Soldiers who trained at Grafenwoehr Training Area in the past remember it as small community with a large training area. Army Transformation meant significant change for Grafenwoehr to include the stationing of additional combat maneuver and enabling forces. The plan that made this all happen is known as Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr, or EB-G, and it provided more than a billion dollars to create additional facilities and improvements to our community.

We still have three EBG projects to be completed – a Directorate of Emergency Services fire and police complex, Netzaberg chapel and an education center in Main Post's Building 244. What made today's ceremony special was we marked the transition of the last Brigade Combat Team complex to the garrison and thanked our host nation partners who made this happen. This ceremony



was particularly special to our host nation partners because it was the largest U.S. Army construction project ever realized in Germany (or the equivalent of 700 million euro in construction costs performed by German contractors).

Our partners, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Europe (EUD) and the Grafenwoehr Baudienststelle (BDS) of the Government of the Upper Palatinate did an outstanding job in supporting us by completing quality work on time to meet our needs. The BDS was a first of its kind tiger team consisting of co-location of the BDS, EUD and our EB-G Cell into a single complex to facilitate timely coordination and construction.

It is German custom to mark the end of large projects with a ceremony to thank those involved. To give you an idea of how big this project was, our invitation list included almost 500 guests, with 400 of those being from the host nation.

The importance of these facilities can easily be explained through our population growth. We now have more than 25,000 Soldiers, family members and civilian employees in our Grafenwoehr military community.

EB-G realigned and transformed our community to accommodate U.S. Army Europe stationing requirements. This project yielded a shopping complex, shoppette/gas station, barracks, unit operations, motor pools, vehicle wash facility, roads, the 7th Army NCO Academy complex, the 7th Warrior Transition Brigade complex, JMTC headquarters, postal service center, Range 112 support facility, a target machine shop and Netzaberg (with DoDDS Schools, CDC/SAS, YS Cen-

ter, Shoppette and housing) and other housing in our surrounding area. There was also significant infrastructure in the ground to support these new facilities.

This installation and this facility are not only a source of pride for us, but for U.S. Army Europe, the Department of the Army, and the German government and German public. We have created a modern and enduring installation that is no longer known as "just a training area," and we will continue to press forward with our remaining Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr projects. The Grafenwoehr military community is now known as one of the best places in the Army to be stationed and we have Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr to thank for that.

Army Strong!

*Col. Chris Sorenson
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

CSM CORNER



Spring cleaning begins in May for the community

Don't let the snap of winter weather fool you – it's spring cleaning time for the Grafenwoehr communities on and off post.

Yes folks, it's time for our annual community spring cleanup and come rain or shine Soldiers, family members and civilians will be picking up litter in preparation for summer. Rose Barracks spring cleanup is May 3–7 for and Grafenwoehr's Main Post will clean up May 10–14.

Success of this event depends solely on the participation of everyone in the community. Get out, pitch in, lend a helping hand and show some community pride and spirit. If you work here, live here, shop here and your kids go to school here, own it. This is our community and it's our responsibility to keep it beautiful.

Spring Cleanup is a coordinated effort to tackle the litter scattered throughout the area. No more, no less. Litter-free streets are essential for maintaining a high quality of life and instilling pride in our community. The effort will last five days for everyone. Soldiers, civilians, family members, directorates, private organizations, agencies including the PX, commissary, bowling alleys, gas stations, movie theatres, fitness centers, company operations and more, are required to participate in the Spring Cleanup campaign.

Wednesdays through Fridays are usually when most agencies do their cleaning. This takes just half a day to complete, so come to work in blue jeans and



bring a pair of gloves. Help by raking leaves, cutting grass, sweeping sidewalks or parking lots and picking up some trash. Agencies are authorized time twice a year for this purpose, so hang a sign on your door saying you're closed for a specific time to do spring cleanup. During spring cleanup, you choose the day and times to cleanup your work areas. The times and

locations are solely up to supervisors as long as the cleaning gets done.

Add some fun to the activity by having a cookout afterward. Our building does it every year. It's a great time to get to know some of the folks you work with but seldom see. The folks in my building always start their cleanup efforts by 8 a.m., that way the hot dogs and hamburgers are ready by the time we're done cleaning. Of course, the grill meister tends the grill and nothing else.

The Spring Cleanup program enables neighbors to address issues such as littering, junk-filled yards, inoperative vehicles and poor community pride and image. It is designed to help residents implement neighborhood-based initiatives to reduce such problems. A community's appearance reflects on everyone in the community. Right or wrong, an area's reputation and

that of its residents can be harmed by the appearance of a single neglected or littered property. While everyone feels some degree of concern about litter and neglected neighborhood properties, very few people realize it's a problem they can influence.

This effort represents and encourages a Spring Cleanup program led and run by residents within the community. However, the program is dependent upon neighborhood leadership for actual implementation and success.

True success will happen only with the efforts and work of the neighborhood. I have often said, I need your help, everyone in the community including the children to help me keep this place clean. In my daily travels I walk a lot and pick up items instead of walking by as if I didn't see it. If everyone picked up one or two pieces of trash what difference it would make. It's amazing what a few people can do to make a big difference for everyone.

Thanks in advance to all those who helped clean up to make this place event better than it is today, the best place to live and serve in Germany.

*Command Sgt. Maj.
William Berries
CSM, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*



Bavarian News

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We want to hear from you!

The *Bavarian News* welcomes articles from Army organizations and announcements from the general public about events of interest to the military community.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to submit, coordinate with the managing editor at 475-7113, or e-mail jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil. Prior coordination is mandatory.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is noon on Tuesday, the week prior to the publication date. Publication dates can be found at www.milcom.de.

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Water Tower art by Dane Gray

Entschuldigung

In the April 14 edition, "250 Soldiers, families bound for Grafenwoehr," page 1, Spc. Bethany L. Little, 172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs, was listed as a private first class.

Go home!

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

Rules apply for items mailed via APO

When in doubt, consult a postal officer before mailing products such as tobacco, medication and coffee

by Robert Szostek

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal

MANNHEIM, Germany – Many Americans in Germany order products by mail from abroad or have relatives mail them things. But some items may not be mailed to an Army Post Office address from countries outside Germany, U.S. Army Europe customs officials said, and recent checks by U.S. and German authorities have resulted in seizures of banned items.

Bill Johnson, chief of the USAREUR Customs Executive Agency, outlined the types of items that cannot be mailed to APO addresses.

Counterfeits of trademarked goods

Many producers of DVDs and CDs and designers of goods such as purses, shoes or clothing have registered their trademarks with customs officials, who inspect the mail for fake versions of trademarked items, Johnson said. “Trademark violations are the illegal use of signs, names, logos and business names that brand manufacturers use to distinguish their products,” Johnson said.

Medications and supplements

Johnson said it’s wise to consult a postal officer before ordering medications, diet pills or nutrition supplements by mail, as the rules governing their importation are very complicated. Even items such as vitamins in highly measured doses or ginseng roots should not be mailed.

Food products

Food is also problematic, Johnson explained, due to animal and plant health regulations. “Meat or meat products like beef jerky, game or ham are banned from the mail, as are canned meats and even soup mixes or pasta containing meat,” he said. Caviar from sturgeon is forbidden because all species of sturgeon are endangered, and there are further restrictions on potatoes, milk, milk products and eggs.

Firearms and ammunition

These are restricted items that should only be mailed to Germany with the required permits, Johnson said. He added that some types of paintball guns available in the U.S. are more powerful than German law allows, and suggested consulting customs officials before having paintball guns sent through the mail.

Endangered species products

Buying products made from endangered animals and plants adds to the risk that they will



Photos by Molly Hayden

Postal Specialist Cathy Bain assists customers with custom forms at the Post Office on Grafenwoehr's Main Post, April 21.



become extinct, and can result in fines and confiscation, Johnson explained.

Reptile skins are often used in watchbands, handbags, belts, wallets and shoes. Most products made from crocodile, lizard and snake, and all sea turtle products are prohibited, as are ivory, whale tooth decorations known as scrimshaw and netsuke, and many plants, such as cacti and orchids.

“People should also remember that coffee, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages are

rationed in Germany and may not be mailed via the APO,” Johnson added. He said it is perfectly legal to have things such as coffee, liqueurs or cigars sent to a German home address via the German mail system or a commercial parcel service, but tax and import duty – which can sometimes be quite expensive – must be paid on these items.

He said using the APO to import any item for resale, a business, or a volunteer organization, is banned as well. Items imported for these purposes must be sent through the normal postal system or via a parcel service, and are subject to import duties and tax.

Sending items via the APO system without paying tax and duties is tax evasion – a violation of the law, Johnson said, and tax exemption certificates cannot be issued for rationed items or goods not intended for personal use.

Military customs offices can provide advice and information about what can be sent through the mail. More information is also available on the German customs Web site at www.zoll.de/english/version/b0_prohibitions_and_restrictions/index.html.

Warrior University makes the Army stronger

by Laura Peck

USAG Grafenwoehr Education Center

Excitement builds as Soldiers talk about the newest education program in U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s Warrior University. Courses began in March and were a big hit with Soldiers. The new program is structured to allow Soldiers to take college courses during the duty day. In addition, the courses are open to other members of USAG Grafenwoehr who wish to pursue their postsecondary education.

Unit commanders are aware of the importance of supporting education for Soldiers. Allowing Soldiers to take courses during duty hours is a well-deserved opportunity for those returning from a deployment and provides a venue for them to refocus on their educational goals.

Spc. Rex Taylor, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, sees the program’s potential.

“Warrior University is an amazing opportunity to get college credit during the duty day,” Taylor said. “I hope they offer it again during our nontraining cycles.”

To date, approximately 130 Soldiers have registered for Warrior University courses.

Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commanding general, Joint Multinational Training Command, saw the need for the Warrior University Program shortly after his arrival in Grafenwoehr and asked the education center to put together a program to optimize opportunities for



Photo by Shelley Caywood

Professor Bruce Hull, University of Maryland University College, teaches a U.S. History class at the Main Post Education Center, April 12, as part of Warrior University. A popular new command initiative, Warrior University provides Soldiers and other community members the opportunity to take classes during the duty day.

Soldiers to continue their education.

“I remember being a young private at Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1976 and taking college courses during duty hours during what was then referred to as the red cycle,” Salazar said.

He equated the red and green cycles of the ‘70s to the Army Force Generation Cycle, which allows Soldiers reset time following a long deployment.

JMTC’s Command Sgt. Maj.

Darius ZaGara added: “Warrior University is an outstanding opportunity for our Soldiers to improve their station in the Army. The advances in technology, coupled with the complex environment in which they serve both on and off the battlefield, demand higher education. Higher education not only prepares them for their future, it empowers them to operate in this very demanding profession.”

The education center coordi-

nates with both University of Maryland University College and Central Texas College to provide academic and vocational-technical courses to students enrolled in Warrior University in the USAG Grafenwoehr footprint. Salazar expects the Warrior University concept to spread to other garrisons in Europe that are looking for creative ways to support Soldier education, especially for Soldiers returning from an extended deployment who have not had the opportunity to pursue their education.

“Warrior University is more than training; it provides our Soldiers with the education they need to fight in today’s uncertain environments,” said Col. Chris Sorenson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

As Army tuition covers course costs, the only out-of-pocket expenses incurred by students are books and any one-time matriculation fee that may be charged by the university.

“This is a win-win,” said Shelley Caywood, education services specialist at the Grafenwoehr Education Center. “Soldiers develop the critical and creative thinking skills that are so important to the Army’s mission and at the same time set themselves up for success after the Army.”

For more information about this program, contact your local education center.

Editor’s Note: Laura Peck is the garrison education services officer for the Army Continuing Education System.



By Michael Beaton, JMTC Public Affairs

The Beginning of the American Era in Grafenwoehr

When Soldiers of Gen. George Patton’s American 3rd Army arrived at the front gate of the Grafenwoehr Training Area on April 19, 1945 there was still the scent of burned out buildings coming from the still-smoking ruin of the main camp.



The Water Tower had survived the onslaught. It was intact, and stood over the bombed-out streets, uprooted trees and wrecked barracks and vehicles. In the town of Grafenwoehr itself a thin hazy mix of dust and smoke hung over the city - or what remained of it after the massive bombing raids.



It was a bloodless surrender, and that same day, a second American unit entered the town of Grafenwoehr on foot as their tanks and other tracked vehicles were too wide to pass through the city’s narrow 400-year-old lower gate. That challenge was overcome two days later, when explosives widened the path. Surprisingly, the American Soldiers discovered two amazing things that day: the largest stockpile of lethal chemical weapons in Europe, left behind by the Nazis, and the wreckage of the “Dora” - the biggest gun that was ever to be produced in history of warfare.

At the end of the Second World War the Grafenwoehr Training Area was 45 years in the making. The American Soldiers who fought their way across Europe and to the gates of the training area had no idea that once they began to rebuild it, they would eventually remake the GTA into the largest training area outside the United States and reopen it; first to the German Bundeswehr, then to their NATO allies, and eventually to multinational partners from around the world.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A LIST OF UPCOMING COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.HQJMTC.ARMY.MIL

Strength in Diversity

Matthews cooks with class



Ami Matthews prepares a shrimp dish for a customer at Tumbleweeds Restaurant in Vilseck.

2SCR spouse turns culinary hobby into a means for coping with deployment

Story and photo by
Sgt. Jerry Wilson
2SCR Public Affairs

When Spc. Nicholas Matthews and his wife Ami left Charlotte, N.C., for Germany four years ago, both admitted to not being very handy in the kitchen.

“Neither one of us were cooks, we ate out a lot,” Matthews said. “My husband used to say I would burn toast, but I was never really that bad.”

It was during her husband’s first deployment to Iraq that Matthews discovered her love of the culinary arts.

According to Matthews, she developed a love for food when she started working as a dish washer at the Tumbleweeds Restaurant on Rose Barracks. She and her co-workers who were also spouses of deployed Soldiers would get together and share recipes.

“We just got tired of eating the same stuff every night,” she said. “So we would just gather at somebody’s house and cook together.”

Cooking for friends and a lot of trial and error enabled Matthews to hone her ability to express herself through food. Matthews later turned that passion into a career and is now one of the head cooks at Tumbleweeds.

“It’s great,” she said. “Now when I can’t cook for my Soldier, I can cook for everybody else’s.”

It was this connection with her fellow spouses that Matthews said helped her get through the 15-month separation. Matthews said camaraderie is crucial to surviving a deployment.

“You definitely need to find the right group of wives to hang out with,” she said. “Once you find good supportive wives to hang out with, that is all you need.”

After her husband’s last 15-month deployment, Matthews and her support circle feels the upcoming 12-month deployment should be easier. She is looking forward to helping her new co-workers remain strong and happy.

“A lot of the girls I work with are new to Germany,” she said. “It will be nice to teach them how we cope and help them through it.”

Matthews said one thing is certain. She knows her husband loves his job and she will follow him and continue to support him through whatever journey he takes.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Mary Salerno

What is your role with the school here in Europe?

I’m the assistant principal at Hohenfels Elementary School.

How long have you worked in the education field?

I’ve been with DoDDs for 20 years, the past three of them in Hohenfels.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

The best part about my job is the fact that I get to work with a combination of teachers, parents and students to try to provide the best education we can for our kids.

It’s like the old saying — it really does take a village (to raise a child) — and in my job that’s what we do.

I’m like the in-between person, taking everything that comes from above and filtering it down and taking everything that comes from below and filtering it up.

What advice can you give students to help them succeed?

Just to make the most of their learning opportunities, especially to make the most of everything DoDDs has to offer because our school systems are abundant with all the resources we need, unlike some schools we see, to make them productive citizens eventually.

2SCR’s Huff enjoys an active lifestyle

Story and photo by
Sgt. Jerry Wilson
2SCR Public Affairs

Growing up in Streator, Ill., Pfc. Benjamin Huff was considered a very active young man. He played football and baseball and spent most of his time running around outdoors. Little did young Ben know that all this exercise was helping to prepare him for his future career as a Soldier.

Huff, now 21 years old, is currently assigned to 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, where he carries out his mission as a 50-caliber machine-gunner on one of the unit’s many Stryker Brigade combat teams. The infantryman spends his days providing cover for his team and said he loves every minute of it.

“I couldn’t stand being behind a desk,” Huff said. “I’d go crazy. I enjoy being outside and active, so this is the best of both worlds.”

Huff admits it was a bit of a culture shock for him when he arrived in Germany five months ago.

“When we arrived in Frankfurt, all the security at the airport was carrying machine guns,” Huff remembered. “I was lost by that,” he continued. “I would never see that in the States.”

For Huff, a military career is a family tradition. His grandfather and great-grandfather both served during wartime, so for him it seemed like a natural choice.

“I had a big family background in the military,” he said. “This (being in the military) was something I have wanted to do for a while.”

Huff said if he decides to make the military a career he hopes to become an officer and study either law or medicine.

“I was really big into math and science in school,” he said. “I would love to specialize in physical therapy.”

“There is always a need for people in the medical field,” Huff said.

With 2SCR facing its upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, Huff said he has mixed feelings.

“I am ready for it,” he said, “but I am also nervous at the same time.”

Huff said the one thing he wants to see hap-



Pfc. Benjamin Huff, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, is optimistic about deployment.

pen during his deployment is that everyone comes home safe.

“I want to take away from this deployment a better sense of life,” Huff said. “I don’t want to take anything for granted.”

Early Return of Dependents not taken lightly

by **Sgt. 1st Class John C. Dittmore**
U.S. Army Europe Office of the Inspector General

Most married Soldiers PCSing to the European Theater do so on an “accompanied” tour that includes their command sponsored family members. Command sponsorship authorizes family members to move to Europe at government expense and affords them logistical support such as Tricare and schools for the children.

However, during one’s time in theater, occasions may arise that require the return of select or all of one’s family members back to their respective home of record. Examples include financial hardship, medical issues and marital problems that can’t be resolved. In these cases, the Soldier can opt to submit a request for an “Early Return of Dependents,” commonly known as an ERD or EROD. Every effort should be made to resolve all personal issues at the overseas location; consideration of an EROD should not be taken lightly and should be one’s last choice and not the first option.

Early Return of Dependents actions may be requested by the Soldier, family member or directed by the commander. If a Soldier or a family member has a legitimate reason for requesting an EROD, then a DA Form 4187 must be submitted with recommendations from applicable agencies through the unit’s battalion S1 to the garrison commander for consideration. A unit commander also has the authority to request the order for the return of a family member if deemed in the best interest of the Army. In this instance, the commander will submit a request for an

EROD through the battalion S1 to the garrison commander.

Command sponsored family members who are EROD, are entitled to government-paid travel, shipment of household goods, and POV shipment back to CONUS regardless of who requested the EROD. Moreover, once an EROD is approved, the respective family members lose their command sponsorship.

Once an EROD has been executed and the family members desire a return overseas, the individual’s sponsor must request for command sponsorship again. Command sponsorship is a privilege and approval for returning family members is not a guaranteed. If the application is approved, all travel expenses back to the overseas location will be “out of pocket.” The government will not pay the travel expenses for the returning of the family members or for their shipment of household goods.

Lastly, EROD requests based on impending deployments will typically not be considered and may not be used in lieu of a family care plan. As one can see, there are many things to consider prior to requesting an EROD.

For additional information or questions about the EROD process, refer to the following regulations and Web site governing ERODS: AR 614-30, Overseas Service; AR 55-46, Travel Overseas; USAREUR Supplement 1 to AR 55-46 Travel Overseas; Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) Volume I paragraph U5900 at: www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sfac/admin/erd.htm.

Editor’s Note: Sgt. 1st Class John C. Dittmore is an assistant inspector general at the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Inspector General.

Do you have an idea for a story?

Contact the *Bavarian News* editor at jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil, assistant editor at trecia.wilson@eur.army.mil, or call DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113. We want to hear from you!

8th Squadron manning the home front



Maj. David McCulley, commander, 8th Squadron, 2SCR, discusses the plans for caring for families of deployed Soldiers at a Rehearsal of Concepts drill held in Rose Barracks, recently.



Key Regimental personnel and their spouses attend a Rehearsal of Concepts drill conducted by 8th Squadron at Rose Barracks. The drill touched on key areas that would affect families during the deployment.

2 SCR's rear detachment prepares for eventualities of Afghan deployment

Story and photos by
Spc. Corey Glynn
2SCR Public Affairs

The 8th Squadron of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment was designed for one purpose: to support the families of deploying Soldiers. The 8th Squadron recently conducted a rehearsal of concepts drill at Rose Barracks.

During the drill, Maj. David McCulley,

8th Squadron commander, and his staff ran through various scenarios to demonstrate that 8th Squadron is ready to take over on the home front.

They touched on seven key areas during the rehearsal including: casualties, memorial services, wounded in action, early return of dependents, command sponsorship, care team procedures and processing late deploying Soldiers.

"Our primary focus is to make sure that the families of deployed Soldiers are taken care of," McCulley said. "If a Soldier's family needs assistance, it is our duty to make sure that the family's needs are met."

"If a family needs help with finances,

we will make sure that they get to a financial advisor or to another specialists."

Casualties are unfortunate, but in the event one occurs, 8th Squadron has the standard for actions that need to happen and a means for contacting the families involved.

"In the event of a casualty, any memorial service will be handled by the squadron," said McCulley. "There will be teams in place to assist the families."

In order to provide the best care for families, the squadron must be prepared to handle any incident. The establishment of 8th Squadron is a prime example of ways 2SCR has been and always will be there for the families.

Employees given access to social networking web sites

by **Jonathon M. Gray**

5th Signal Command Public Affairs

Internet-based capabilities, to include social media Web sites such as Facebook and Myspace, can now be accessed from U.S. Army Europe Nonsecure Internet Protocol Router Network computers.

"Opening up these Internet-based capabilities is an important step to allow users to connect, communicate and research by leveraging this growing resource," said Col. John Cox, acting commander, 5th Signal Command.

The U.S. Army Europe policy is a product of recent announcements by both Department of Defense and

Department of the Army officials to allow access to sites. Though the policy has been updated, securing the network is still a critical priority.

USAREUR network usage is monitored, cautions Cox: "It's important to remember that even though these network resources are turned on and accessible, users are on a Department of Defense Information System. Activities on IBC sites will still be monitored and users should act according to the Acceptable Use Policy they signed."

USAREUR Operation Communications and Information Systems and 5th Signal Command will constantly monitor these tools and update respec-

tive controls and security measures to protect the users and the network while enhancing network capabilities.

"We have basic network protection in place and will continue to monitor the network for malicious activity associated with IBC," said Lt. Col. Kurt Schosek, director, Europe-Theater Network Operations and Security Center, 5th Signal Command.

Beyond the technological security of the network, users of DoD computer systems still have to be aware of the content of sites they visit. Users can better protect the computers and themselves by being observant and watchful, connecting only with sites that are known and not follow-

ing unknown links or messages to different sites and pages. Operational security is also a key concern.

"Our biggest help to security and the integrity of the network is the users," said Cox. "Soldiers and civilians must remain vigilant and aware of what they do on the computers and remember that network is a tool of our national defense that we depend on to accomplish our missions. We must protect it."

IBC capabilities will only be allowed a limited amount of data transfer speed on the network to allow mission critical data to continue. "These and other measures are in place to ensure IBC capabilities will not adverse-

ly affect mission critical operations," said Schosek. "This guarantees that our network will still be active and available for all warfighters."

For Information Assurance Awareness training, visit <https://ia.signal.army.mil/DoDIAA/default.asp>. Additional information is available to computer users on the EUR domain at <https://itt.eur.army.mil>. Users can follow the "News" or "Links" sections for IA training opportunities and information.

For further information on IBC and the impact to the network, contact your information assurance officer, servicing computer help desk, or dial 119.

RETIREEE CORNER

Retirees can maximize their fixed income, minimize headaches

by **Retired Sgt. Maj. Dave Stewart**

Garrison Retiree Council

I'm frequently asked about direct deposit of retiree annuity checks to a German Bank. Retirees are naturally afraid that their annuity will arrive on time or arrive period. I can assure you that direct deposit is an efficient way to receive your annuity if you do not have an American bank account or no longer live close to your U.S. credit union. Military banking facilities on post do not permit retirees living outside the Status of Forces Agreement to keep their bank accounts, but most credit unions do. Retired Maj. Bernd Rieger gave us permission to reprint excerpts from his Information Paper, "Important Facts for U.S. Retirees Living in Germany," and he had some comments on retirees and banking, which I have included in the following paragraphs:

When retiring in Germany, and living here as a permanent resident not under SOFA, you should keep your U.S. bank account. It allows you to maintain a financial link to the United States. If you had a credit union account here in Germany prior to retirement, you can continue your financial activities as you did in the past, but you can't start up an account at the credit union after becoming a full retiree.

The dollar-euro conversion debate

Watching the euro-dollar rates will become part of your life. Of course, this can make you age faster especially when the buck goes down and down and down – recently though we have been doing better with the exchange rate. There are three ways to convert your retirement dollars to euros. The first is

if you still have a U.S. bank account, you can continue your financial activities as you did in the past. But what happens when the U.S. bank is gone or you can no longer get to it? One way is to take the dollars or checks to your German bank for conversion, but that is the most inefficient method of the three because German banks will give the worst rate that is legally possible and charge a conversion fee for every check.

The "clever folks" choose the second way to convert. They hold cash and checks for that very moment when the dollar reaches the highest point in relation to the euro. They watch conversion rates and study long range predictions. This however, requires nerves that few people have. The profit the "clever folks" might make is minimal and their expectation can backfire.

The third and most efficient way to convert is to have your retirement pay deposited directly into your German bank account in euros. That way you live with what you get and you get a slightly better rate and pay no check fee. The money is transferred from the Federal Reserve direct to the German bank equivalent at the official exchange rate for the transfer date – the funds are then automatically moved to your German bank account. You can also have your Social Security checks deposited directly in the same manner.

Rieger also points out that it is a good idea to have a credit card from the German bank, which allows you to pay in any currency anywhere including AAFES and DECA. If you want to learn more about direct deposit of your retirement annuity or Social Security, call or visit the Retirement Services Office at the Grafenwoehr Garrison.

Contact Keith Harry at DSN 475-8709, CIV 09641-83-8709.

Health matters

The Retiree Council held its second quarter meeting last month and Lt. Col. Glenda Lock, commander of the Vilseck Clinic, addressed the forum. Lock said that the Vilseck clinic continued to see patients on a space-available basis and was doing all possible to see retirees. She also emphasized the importance of preventive medicine, encouraging retirees to regularly get exams related to prostate and breast cancer, as well as diabetes and cholesterol testing. The Hohenfels clinic actively sees retirees and the Grafenwoehr Clinic commander urges retirees to call in to set up appointments.

Of course, the active duty population continues to "flex," which drives the availability of appointments. The council will meet again June 10. We have a limited amount of space but we encourage retirees to attend as interested observers on a first come first serve basis. Please call Keith Harry, the Retirement Services Officer, if you wish to attend the next meeting, I provided his telephone number above.

With this issue we will no longer provide monthly columns, rather we will provide periodic columns that are in sync with our retiree council meetings and as major issues affecting retirees arise. My aim is to keep our retirees informed of our discussions and the latest developments. I can assure you that we continue to follow the mail and customs concerns very closely as these volatile issues are a matter of extreme importance to all of us. Until next time ... take care of yourselves and get lots of fresh air and exercise.

Inspirational singer-songwriter performs

Sareo performs free for Schweinfurt, Vilseck communities, May 7 & 9

Europe Regional Medical Command News Release

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Singer-songwriter and amputee Theresa Sareo will perform May 3-14 at several U.S. military venues in Europe to honor Soldiers, Families and community members serving or supporting the nation, especially wounded warriors.

Sareo, a frequent visitor and performer at Walter Reed Army Hospital, is widely known for her popular, powerful single, "Through a Soldier's Eyes." She is an in-demand public speaker who has appeared with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on health care issues and with top military leaders at conventions and benefits for wounded troops nationwide.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Europe and the U.S. Army Europe Chaplains Corps are sponsoring and escorting Sareo.

"Her performances highlight an uplifting and motivating message of healing that we would like to spread throughout the U.S. military community in Europe," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Weber, medical noncommissioned officer for the Warrior Transition Battalion Europe.

All community members are welcome to attend her uplifting motivational concerts at one of the following locations.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Christopher Weber at 371-3529 or e-mail Christopher.weber@amedd.army.mil.



Courtesy photo

Motivational speaker/singer Theresa Sareo performs at the Fort Lee, Va., Spiritual Fitness Concert July 22, 2009, with 266th Quartermaster Battalion Soldiers she invited to join her on-stage.

Sareo's Performance Schedule

May 3, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel

May 3, 6-8 p.m.
**Mark Twain Village Chapel,
Heidelberg**

May 5, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
LRMC DFAC

May 5, 7:30-8:45 p.m.
Ramstein North Chapel

May 7, 7-8:30 p.m.
Schweinfurt Ledward Chapel

May 9, 7-8:30 p.m.
Vilseck Chapel

May 11, 7-8:30 p.m.
Vicenza Chapel

EFMP promises families standardized services

By Rob McIlvaine FMWRC Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC) recently conducted the second Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Summit to enhance services for Family members with special needs, keeping the promise of the Army Family Covenant.

Active duty Soldiers enroll in the program when they have a Family member who has a physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disorder requiring specialized services so their needs can be considered in the military personnel assignment process.

"The Army EFMP leads the uniformed services and the nation through a model of support for Soldiers and Families with special needs by connecting and supplementing existing national networks of support and services with local military and civilian resources," Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, IMCOM commander, said.

A mandatory enrollment program, EFMP works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, educational, medical, and personnel services to Families with special needs.

"The needs of EFMP are great, and much work remains to be done, particularly in the areas of communication and program standardization. We must have seamless program standardization from garrison to garrison," Sharon Fields, FMWRC EFMP manager, said.

This vision EFMP has been working on for the past year is scheduled for a July 2010 implementation.

With many of the garrisons becoming joint-based communities, this standardization should work seamlessly for all EFMP Families in every service.

Efforts are ongoing to help EFMP Families transition smoothly to communities where their special needs will be met with comprehensive and coordinated services.

Soldiers can then focus on mission readiness, knowing their Families' needs are met.

"The command knows what's needed. When Lt. Gen. Lynch visits a garrison, he always pulls together a focus group of parents who are enrolled in EFMP because he wants to hear their concerns and suggestions to make the program better," Fields said.

According to one mother, EFMP is wasting no time in making good on its promise.

Sgt. 1st Class Fernice Morton, Fort Lewis, Washington. Equal Opportunity Advisor has a son enrolled in EFMP.

"I was selected to go to the EFMP Summit after attending an EFMP workshop at Fort Lewis, Wash. While there, I was in respite care transition between contractors and the Army Community Service (ACS) staff was always available to assist me every step of the way," Morton said.

Antoinette Hill is a volunteer who is the spouse of a retired Soldier with an EFMP daughter.



"I have witnessed the evolution of this program for more than 30 years, and the stars are aligned for great potential. While the nation is focused on the military, we are focused on collaborative EFMP partnerships and the partners are stepping up. Families, warriors and survivors are better served and EFMP better fulfills the promises of the Army Family Covenant," Hill said.

Families need to remember where to get the helpful information.

"Army Community Service (ACS) works hand in hand with the EFMP at the medical facility. While the medical services are responsible for the paperwork for enrollment, at ACS we provide everything (support, information and links) you need," Susan Moyer, Army Community Services EFMP Manager at Fort Carson, Colo., said.

According to Moyer, services that parents and individuals are searching for are right at their fingertips.

"ACS is like a 'yellow pages' for special needs information," Moyer said.

As the EFMP Summit drew to a close, Lt. Gen. Lynch summed up the way ahead.

"Take care of our Soldiers and Families, one Family at a time. To do this, we've got to fix this program so it works better and we have to get the word out. When I was a young commander, no one told me about EFMP. I had to learn about it on my own," Lynch said.

In the near future, FMWRC EFMP will implement a system that fully supports Families with special needs at five pilot locations: Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Campbell, Tenn; USAG Grafenwoehr, Germany; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; and Fort Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Also in the near future, the Army will identify what's required for joint services to participate in this program.

For more information, visit Family Programs at Army OneSource at www.my-armyonesource.com/FamilyProgramsand-Services/FamilyPrograms/ExceptionalFamilyMemberProgram/default.aspx.

Safe summer campaign to run through September

by U.S. Army Combat Readiness Safety Center Public Affairs

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – The summer season is fast approaching and the Army is continuing its commitment to safeguarding Soldiers, Army Civilians and their Families with the launch of the 2010 Safe Summer campaign.

"Historically, our off-duty fatality rates inevitably increase from April to September," said Brig. Gen. William Wolf, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center commanding general and director of Army Safety. "In fiscal 2009, almost 40 percent of our accidents occurred during this timeframe, with POV and motorcycle accidents leading the way every month."

Once again this year, the 2010 Safe Summer campaign will stress the importance of proactive, prevention focused risk mitigation during summer months. The campaign, which runs through September 30, will encourage members of the Army Family to have fun this summer but

Our Soldiers are working hard and playing harder than ever and we are not telling them to stop what they're doing. Instead, we're asking them to 'Play It Safe' in all their off-duty activities, because safety is the key to ensuring a good time for all

Brig. Gen. William Wolf

Commanding General, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety

keep a watchful eye on the risk associated with every activity.

"Our Soldiers are working hard and playing harder than ever and we are not telling them to stop what they're doing," said Wolf. "Instead, we're asking them to 'Play It Safe' in all their off-duty activities, because safety is the key to

ensuring a good time for all."

Campaign materials including articles, posters and videos will once again be hosted on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Web site and will emphasize teamwork and the need for extra precautions during the high-risk summer months ahead. Products are available

for downloading, allowing leaders at installations around the globe the opportunity to tailor their summer safety campaigns to meet the needs of their individual populations.

New in this year's campaign is a branding toolkit that provides official logos and templates to those looking to replicate the Safe Summer products with minimal effort.

"Soldiers talk about what they're doing in their off-duty time, even if a leader isn't always within earshot," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Eyer, senior noncommissioned officer for the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

"This is why it's so important for our Families and battle buddies to educate themselves about summer risks, take an active interest in their Soldier's safety and intervene when the risks become too great."

More information about the 2010 Safe Summer campaign can be found by visiting <https://safety.army.mil>, and clicking on the Safe Summer icon at the bottom of the Web page.

Counter-IED conference unites nations



Military representatives listen as a Joint Multinational Readiness Center observer/controller gives a briefing during a three-day Counter-IED Conference April 6-8. Military representatives from 13 countries attended the conference sponsored by the Joint Multinational Training Command. JMRC leaders said the conference was an opportunity for the U.S. military to inform its coalition partners of what training is available for their military personnel before they deploy to Afghanistan.

Story and photos by

Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Walker

JMRC Public Affairs

Military leaders from around the world came together at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center to get an up close and personal look at the latest technology and training available to defeat improvised explosive devices on the battlefield.

During the three-day Counter IED conference sponsored by the Joint Multinational Training Command, April 6-8, representatives from 13 countries got hands-on experience and demonstrations of live, virtual and simulated training aids and devices available for their use here.

Lt. Col. David Ray, an Army engineer and CIED trainer at JMRC who helped plan the event, said the venue was not only a chance to allow nations to collaborate and to talk about CIED strategies, but it was an opportunity for the U.S. military to inform its coalition partners of what training is available for their military personnel before they deploy to Afghanistan.

"This conference was a partnering event to allow countries to see how we conduct CIED training at JMTC

and then allow them to identify where resource short falls exist," Ray said.

The attending countries were Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Slovakia, Turkey and England.

Maj. Santiago Martin of the Spanish army said the event was an opportunity for his country to gauge the center's capacity and training.

"The training center is very important to help us protect our people," he said.

Martin said military leaders will study the information gathered at the conference to help with planning decisions.

"We first must identify our short comings," he said.

While a large portion of the conference involved briefs and discussions among the countries' representatives, attendees toured the JMRC's IED Academy and Training Support Center.

At the academy, attendees examined theater specific training aids, including IED trigger systems, suicide vests and a homemade explosives laboratory. They also looked over route clearance equipment, including the Joint Explosive Ord-

nance Demolition Rapid Response Vehicle, the Husky mine clearance vehicle, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and the new Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit, a vehicle-mounted roller that targets pressure-activated or victim-operated improvised explosive devices. Also, they saw four EOD robotic systems on display.

At the Joint Multinational Simulation Center here, representatives received hands-on training working with the military's Virtual Battle Space Simulation 2, a tactical gaming system, which allows Soldiers to visualize collective tasks from the Fire Team to the company level, and toyed with the HUMINT Control Cell, a computer-based trainer that allows one-on-one verbal questioning of virtual people.

At the Training Support Center here, representatives reviewed training aids and devices, including the Fido Portable Explosives Detector, the world's most sensitive explosive detection system; a fiberscope, a flexible fiber optic bundle used to inspect and examine small components in tightly packed equipment; the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, used to train Soldiers how to properly re-



From left: British Army Lt. Col. Iain Brant and Lt. Col. Tim Bakewell of the British Royal Marines tour vehicles, April 7, during a Counter-IED Conference at JMRC. Military representatives from 13 countries attended the conference sponsored by Joint Multinational Training Command. JMRC leaders said the conference was an opportunity for the U.S. military to inform its coalition partners of what training is available for their military personnel before they deploy to Afghanistan.

act during a rollover and escape from a tactical vehicle; and Escalation of Force kits, which include all the equipment necessary for training scenarios that include escalation of force in an hostile environment.

Ray said the purpose of the conference was not specifically aimed

at getting countries to come here to Germany to train. Instead, it focused on what training the military of the visiting countries need to be fully capable of supporting the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan. "Overall, it went extremely well," he said.

Hohenfels fuel supply point named best in Army

by Kristin Bradley

USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

The Hohenfels Defense Fuel Supply Point may be a small facility with just six employees, but it earned recognition on a large scale recently when it won the 2009 American Petroleum Institute trophy for Excellence in Army Installation Fixed Facility Petroleum Operations, an award that recognized the facility as the best in the Army for 2009.

"This is another one of those firsts," said Ed Jones, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels director of logistics. "No one in Europe has won this award before, so for Hohenfels to be the first to receive this award is indescribable."

Operating out of Building 513 on Warrior Hill, the DFSP staff is in charge of supplying fuel for every unit that comes on post, including permanent and rotational units and even the airfield.

That task amounts to about one million gallons of fuel every year, according to Mike Dobler, fuel distribution system supervisor.

Dobler said 2009 was the first year he had even submitted a packet for the award, convinced in the past that the facility was too small to garner such high praise. More than \$1 million in upgrades last year (funded through the Defense Energy Support Center) and continually high remarks from inspectors and other visitors finally convinced Dobler to put his facility up for the trophy, he said.

According to Dobler, the Hohenfels DFSP focuses much of its effort on safety. Among other precautions, each vehicle must undergo an in-depth safety inspection before receiving fuel.

"We make sure they're safe and everyone else on the road is safe in case something happens," said Dobler.

Dobler said they also complete daily safety

checks of their own facility and coordinate closely with safety and environmental personnel.

"We have safety come down frequently — there's always something we might not catch and having those inspections makes sure we're keeping right up there with the standards," said Dobler. He said recently upgraded systems and close coordination with safety and emergency personnel also mean that the supply point is ready for any accident that might occur.

While most of the time supply point personnel are OK with operating in relative obscurity, Dobler said it was nice to be recognized for their continual hard work.

"The thing about the fuel facility is that people don't even know we are here — and that's a good thing — but it's nice to get recognized for hard work," said Dobler.

Supplying fuel for every vehicle on post means being available 24 hours a day, 7 days a

week, he said, which sometimes means working late nights or weekends, or both, especially during training rotations.

To accomplish their mission safely and effectively takes a dedicated staff, Dobler said.

"I've got really good people. Some of the guys have been working here 15, 16, 17 years," Dobler said. "We work well as a team. Everyone knows their job and is cross-trained in everyone else's job so we can continue at any time if someone is not here."

According to Jones, that dedication is well deserving of recognition.

"This is a big award. It's great recognition for the people working hard over there to provide fuel for the installation, units and aircraft, day-in and day-out," said Jones. "They do a great job to keep everyone safe and keep everyone supplied. It is hard to put into words how much this award means," said Jones.

JMRC organizations recognized for excellence in logistics

by Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Walker

JMRC Public Affairs

Three Joint Multinational Readiness Center organizations were honored recently for their excellence in supply, maintenance and deployment operations.

The Falcons, JMRC's Aviation Observer/Controller team, won the

U.S. Army Europe's 2010 Small Unit, Maintenance Excellence Award. Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment won USAREUR's 2010 Best Participating Small Deploying Unit Category, Deployment Excellence Award. JMRC's S-4 won the USAREUR's 2010 Category III (B) Table of Distribution and Allowances, Supply Excellence Award.

This is the second consecutive year that the JMRC S-4 has won the USAREUR award. Also, competing Armywide, JMRC S-4 won Supply Excellence Award in its division for fiscal year 2009.

Master Sgt. Ethen Thompson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the JMRC S-4 section, said the awards validate the fact that the S-4

shop manages and maintains outstanding records. "We strive for excellence in everything we do," Thompson said. "You can't train the best unless you are the best."

Winning the award, he said, starts at bottom on the company level, making sure every supply sergeant and property book holder knows and upholds the established standards for

requesting and receiving supplies, property accountability and records management.

Thompson said one of the keys to success has been establishing a program that focuses on training younger supply sergeants to help them get to a higher level.

Youth learn of Holocaust victims

Story and photo by
Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

As the number of living survivors of the Holocaust decreases with each passing year, future generations seek to safeguard the memories of the survivors by observing the Days of Remembrance, established by Congress as the United States' annual commemoration of the Holocaust.

At U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, honoring the Days of Remembrance came through watching the testimonies of survivors in the Steven Spielberg documentary, "Voices from the List," at the Post Theater, April 8.

Made in preparation for Spielberg's film "Schindler's List," the documentary features the stories of real-life Holocaust survivors saved by businessman Oskar Schindler.

"If these hadn't been filmed this testimony would all be lost," said Master Sgt. Chris Mulvihill, event organizer and Joint Multinational Readiness Center Equal Opportunity advisor.

"These people are not young; they're not going to be around forever. They can tell their children and grandchildren but some people may stop believing (that the Holocaust is real) because there is no firsthand information anymore.

"It is very important that we continue to show firsthand information that the Holocaust did in fact take place because there are many who say that it didn't."

To symbolize the passing of this information to the next generation,

the oldest and youngest members of the audience each lit a candle after which the audience observed a moment of silence.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Wells, 527th Military Police Company, attended the screening with his three sons who each said they are interested in World War II history.

"We need to learn from history and know where we came from. We don't shelter them from anything," Wells said about the reason for bringing his sons to the event.

"I couldn't believe it. I was amazed that they survived," Nicholas Wells, 8, said about the survivors featured in the film.

"Their stories were very surprising, how badly they were abused and how they were afraid every day, how lucky they were to be alive," said Tyler Wells, 13.

Command Sgt. Maj. Brenda Kadet, USAG Hohenfels, said she shared Wells' opinion that history should be shared with children, even if it isn't easy.

"It's important to share what happened with our kids no matter how unpleasant it is," said Kadet. "It is very important to show the ugliness of what mankind can be so we don't pass it along."

According to their Web site, making "Voices from the List" inspired Spielberg to found the Shoah Visual History Foundation that, in conjunction with the University of Southern California, is dedicated to documenting and cataloguing survivor testimony.

The foundation's archives currently contain nearly 52,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors



With the help of Master Sgt. Chris Mulvihill, Joint Multinational Readiness Center Equal Opportunity advisor, left, Nicholas Wells, center, and Susan Solbeck each light a candle at the Hohenfels Days of Remembrance observance, April 8. The U.S. Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the United States' annual commemoration of the Holocaust.

and other witnesses in 32 languages from 56 countries.

For more information on the foundation or to watch testimony from survivors, visit <http://college.usc.edu/vhi>.

For more information about the Days of Remembrance and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, visit www.ushmm.org. Visitors to the site can watch the national Days of Remembrance

ceremony, held April 15 in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, featuring a speech from Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. Central Command.

A DVD of "Schindler's List" with additional features including "Voices from the List," "The Shoah Foundation Story with Steven Spielberg" and information about Oskar Schindler is available for loan through the Hohenfels library.

Students explore dad's job in 'the Box'

Story and photo by
Kristin Bradley
USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs

Though thousands of Soldiers from numerous countries come to the Hohenfels Training Area, the Box, to train each year, many family members of the Soldiers and civilians stationed at Hohenfels rarely get the chance to see where their loved ones spend a significant amount of their time.

On Job Shadow Day however, children from first through 12th-grade got the chance to explore life in the Training Area, to see firsthand where their mother or father has been when they come home and talk about their day in the Box.

Joint Multinational Readiness Center and U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels personnel organized the annual event, held April 6 this year, to introduce children to new fields of study and help them understand what their parents do every day, said Kristin Jacobs-Schmid, garrison school liaison officer.

"The goal is to broaden their horizons, provide them with hands on experience and help develop future interests," said Jacobs-Schmid.

Parents throughout post were invited to bring their children to work. In addition to numerous activities organized by individual units across post, children and their parents were shuttled by bus to Ubungsdorf, one of the mock villages in the Box used to replicate life in an Afghan or Iraqi village.

The site of many mission rehearsal exercises for deploying units, on Job Shadow Day the village became the day's star event featuring demonstrations and displays showcasing many



Spc. Timothy Murray, Joint Multinational Readiness Center Falcon team, helps Mary Rogers put on her helmet before taking a Humvee ride during Job Shadow Day, April 6. Humvee rides were an activity in Ubungsdorf, a mock village in the Hohenfels training area used to replicate life in an Afghan or Iraqi village.

aspects of military life.

John Callihan, an Army Reserve chaplain and civilian working at Hohenfels who served 19 years in the Kentucky National Guard and deployed to Iraq in 2005, said the event finally allowed his daughters to see what he has devoted much of his life to.

"There is a lot of the military life they haven't experienced. This is a good chance for

them to see what I did during those weekends and what I support as an engineer here," said Callihan.

"It was a lot of fun for the kids, going into the towns and buildings and showing them what the lifestyle is like here compared with downrange," said Spc. Enrique Avalos, Company C, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

Avalos said he took advantage of the event as a learning opportunity for his children, using the mock village as a basis for explaining what a deployment is like.

"I got to spend time with the kids and show them our side of the picture - they usually only see either the news or the glamorized movie version; I want them to know the reality," said Avalos. "It was a very positive learning experience. When we were on the (shooting) range I explained the dangers and how important it is to make sure you are following instructions to the letter and that you should always do the right thing even when no one is looking, not just when you know someone is watching."

Staff Sgt. Ramon Ortiz, also with Co. C, 1-4th Inf. Regt., said the event helped him show his children what he does when he is away from them.

"Now they know where we go when we say we're going into the Box for two weeks," said Ortiz.

Ortiz's son, third-grader Luis Ortiz, seemed to be in awe of his dad's job and said he appreciated the opportunity to explore the Box.

"There are a lot of things to know about the Box. There's a lot he does to train Soldiers going downrange," said Ortiz. "He already knows what it looks like but it's a discovery for us."

Family Life Center is placing families first

by Chaplain (Capt.) Donald Smith
USAG Hohenfels Chaplain, Family Life Center

We at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels are dedicated to placing families first and the Chaplain Family Life Center is dedicated to supporting our outstanding Hohenfels families. In October 2009, community leaders resigned the Army Family Covenant at Hohenfels, and we as a community remain committed to taking care of our Hohenfels families.

One way we support our families is through free weekend retreats for both married and single Soldiers. The Chaplain Family Life Center recently conducted two Strong Bonds family retreats held at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort for 50 families from the Hohenfels community.

The comments at the conclusion of these retreats were overwhelmingly positive and expressed desire to return again for another retreat. At these retreats couples can get away from their daily routine and are able to spend quality time together and reconnect without the daily distractions.



Smith

in addition, they learn very practical relationship skills on how to improve their marriages and deepen their commitment to one another.

One participant said: "I would recommend this retreat for young couples and for couples who have been married for a long time."

Another couple said they "are grateful for opportunities like this that the Army provides to Soldiers, spouses and children."

For most of the weekend child care is provided so parents are able to have a much-deserved rest and couples are able to have a date night if they so choose. Exciting programs are provided for the children and they are able to meet and make some new friends.

See RETREATS, page 24

Volksfest comes to Hohenfels

Come celebrate 40 years of German and American friendship and enjoy food, fun, carnival rides, live music, military displays and much more. Below is the current schedule of gate opening times and special events during the fest.

Check out the Hohenfels Web site, www.hohenfels.army.mil, for updates.

Wednesday, April 28

Gate 1 open 3 p.m.-12 a.m.
Fest open 4-11 p.m.
4-6 p.m. - All rides € .75
4:30 p.m. at Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Grand opening and speeches
• Keg tapping
• Hohenfels Brass Band
6-10 p.m. - Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Lionel Ward - "Elvis"

Thursday, April 29

Gate 1 open 2 p.m.-12 a.m.
Fest open 3-11 p.m.
3-5 p.m. at Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Darick Caswell and The Rocking Blues Band
3-8 p.m.
• Kid's Day - half-price rides for all
6-11 p.m. at Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Lionel Ward - "Elvis"

Friday, April 30

Gate 1 open 3 p.m.-1 a.m.
Fest open 4 p.m.-12 a.m.
7-11 p.m. at Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Die Midreissa

Saturday, May 1

Gate 1 open 11 a.m.-1 a.m.
Fest open 12 p.m.-12 a.m.
5-8 a.m. - Three 64 person buses, depart from 3 locations
• Early Bird Special Box Tours
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
• USAG Hohenfels 4th Annual Cooking Contest
12 p.m.-6 p.m. at Display Area
• Military Display
1-6 p.m. at Children's Area
• Jumping Castle
2-5 p.m. at Main Stage - Fest Tent)
• Jugendblaskapelle Hohenfels (Youth Brass Band)
7 p.m.-midnight at Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Country Stars Band
10:30 p.m.
• Fire Work Display

Sunday, May 2

Gate 1 open 8 a.m.-1 a.m.
Fest open 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
8 a.m.-12 a.m.
• Bus Tour ticket booth open
9 a.m.-4 p.m. from Main Fest entrance
• Bus Tours through the Box - Every hour until 4 p.m. - buses will depart every 15 minutes.
10 a.m.-12 a.m. Fest Tent open
11 a.m.-12 a.m. Rides open
12 p.m.- 6 p.m. at Display Area
• Military display
2-2:30 p.m. to left of Beer Tent
• Black powder musket shoot with Wispeck Shooting Club of Velburg
2:30-5 p.m. at Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Blaskapelle St. Agidius Schmidmuhlen (Brass Band)
6-9 p.m. at Main Stage - Fest Tent
• Schmidmuhler Musikanten (Schmidmuehlen Musicians)



photo by Kristin Bradley

Children enjoy one of the many rides at the 2009 U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels German-American Volksfest.

What's Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Warrant Officer Assoc.

The Nord Bayern Warrant Officer Association will host a meet and greet for all warrant officers and their families in the Bavarian community, May 12, from 6-8 p.m. at the Warrant Officer Hut, Bldg. 505, on the Grafenwoehr Main Post. The purpose of this event is for warrant officers and their families from the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt and Garmisch communities to foster and promote camaraderie and fellowship. Free food and drinks will be provided during the barbecue. Activities for children will be provided. For more, contact CW4 Jared McClinton, DSN 476-3070, CIV 09662-83-3070, e-mail jared.mcclinton@eur.army.mil or CW2 Bill DeLong, DSN 476-5477, CIV 09662-83-5477, e-mail william.delong1@eur.army.mil.

Bus runs for appointments

USAG Grafenwoehr now has an early bus run between Main Post Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks. The bus will enable Soldiers and Family members to meet early appointments at Rose Barracks. Bus departs Main Post Dining Facility (Bldg. 101) at 7:15 a.m., stops at Bldg. 735 and Burger King and proceeds to Rose Barracks. Arrives Rose Barracks Health Clinic 7:45 a.m. And In/Out-Processing Center (Bldg. 215) at 7:50 a.m. For more, call Jose Rodriguez at DSN 475-8513.

Amnesty Turn-in Day

ASPI, JMTC Safety, and USAG Grafenwoehr Safety will conduct a "No Questions Asked" Amnesty Turn-in Day of all contraband ammunitions or explosives in anyone's possession. The turn-in site is next to the recycle center across from Range 118 on Chancellorsville Road. Ammunition Quality Assurance and EOD will be present to ensure turn in and disposal occurs safely. For more, call J.P. Meyer at DSN 475-7769.

Community Welfare Grant

The Vilseck Community and Spouses' Club has money to give. See if VCSC can help your organization with a grant. Applications and complete rules and eligibility requirements can be downloaded at vcsonline.com. Deadline for turning in Welfare Applications is April 29. For more, e-mail mail@vcsonline.com.

Case Lot Sale

The Vilseck Commissary Case Lot Sale and May Family Fitness and Fun Event will be from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. May 1-2.

Spring Cleanup

Main Post Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks military community, including off-post housing areas, Spring Clean-Up will be May 3-7 at Rose Barracks and May 10-14 for Main Post.

Bulk Trash pick-up services will not be available for Rose Barracks residents, however the Rose Barracks recycling center operating hours are extended to 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m. on May 3-7. Regular hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays., 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

May 11: Bulk Trash pick-up on-post Grafenwoehr.

May 13: Self-Help will be closed for German holiday.

May 11-12: Landscaping supplies available free to all self-help customers: wood chips, peat moss, grass seed, fertilizer, top soil, and flowering plants.

For more information, go to www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.

Spouse Appreciation Day

The Friday before Mothers' Day has been designated as Military spouse Appreciation Day since 1984 to salute the military spouses that support our nation's troops. The USAG Grafenwoehr Libraries add our thanks and, to honor these spouses, are holding an Open House and prize drawing. Stop by Rose Barracks Library May 6 or the Main Post Library May 7 to register for a special prize drawing for Active Duty Military Spouses. Prize drawings will be at 5:30 p.m. Need not to be present to win. While at the library, check out our Deployment/Reintegration section and explore the many resources available.

Pilsen Liberation Tour

Celebrate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen by the American Army with a day trip during the Pilsen Liberation Festival. Since 1990, people from all over the world come to honor the memory of those involved with the liberation of the city.

The day will include a tour of the Patton Museum (additional nominal entrance fee), Historical Military Vehicle Parade and a brewery tour (additional nominal entrance fee). Reservations must be made by Thursday, April 29 through your FMWR Leisure Travel Services (DSN 475-7402). Cost of the bus is \$39 for adults and \$29 for children.

Military/Overseas Voters

Submit your ballot request for the May 4 state primaries. North Carolina's primary election is May 4. If you are eligible to vote in this election, and requested and received a ballot for the November 4, 2008 presidential election, you will automatically receive an absentee ballot, and need not take any further action unless your mailing address has

changed. (Note to Indiana residents: you may need to take further action if you have not specified which major political party (Democratic or Republican) you wish to receive a May 2010 primary ballot for. Under Indiana law, you must choose a primary ballot for one of the two major parties to vote for candidates running in that party's primary.) For more, votingassistance.grafenwoehr@eur.army.mil

Overnight trips

30 April - 2 May: Keukenhof Tulip Fields with a visit of a cheese and wooden shoes factory and some time in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

27 - 31 May: Provence. In the south of France with a visit of Avignon, Aix en Provence, the Antiques market in Isle-sur-la-Sorgue (the Venice of the South of France), the medieval castle of Les-Baux-de-Provence and much more...

Call Leisure Travel Services for trip prices, times and to sign up at DSN 475-7402, CIV 09641-83-7402.

Gastric bypass support group

Attend the local gastric bypass support group at 5:30 p.m., April 29. The group meets on the third floor conference room Main Post Library. Talks include, "Body Contouring after Major Weight Loss for Women," and "Pregnancy after Gastric Bypass: Is It Safe?"

Insurance availability, Tricare (non) coverage, and out of pocket expenses as well as the various procedures (arms, abdomens, and buttocks) and a brief review of Stage I, II, and III eating guidelines will also be discussed.

Food Handler Classes

May 6 and June 3, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. In room 1.3, Bldg. 223 on Rose Barracks. The class is limited to 20 people. To reserve a seat, call the Preventive Medicine office at DSN 476-2041/2138, CIV 09662-83-2041/2138.

Hohenfels Briefs

Social networking awareness

The U.S. Army Europe Automation Training program is offering a Social Networking Sites and Systems Awareness Training course for all members of the community: military, civilians, contractors and family members, April 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m., at the Post Theater, Bldg. 3. The class will inform all members of the community about social networking systems/sites awareness. These requirements apply to all DOD personnel and their family members in Army Europe while engaging in the social media sphere. For more, call DSN 379-5551, CIV 06202-80-5551.

Hohenfels Baking Classic

Show off your baking skills at this annual contest held during the German American Volksfest, May 1. Choose from the following categories: Cheese-cake Innovations, Amazing Pies, Incredible Chocolate Cakes and Kid Creations. Contest entries will be on display at the main fest tent at the Volksfest. Contestant drop-off is from 9:30-10:30 a.m., entries will be displayed from 10:30-11 a.m. and judging begins at 11 a.m. Pick up entry form at the library. Enter from April 15-29. For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

Softball registration

Sports and Fitness is looking for teams to participate in the upcoming unit level softball program. From now until May 3, register your team to participate in our league which will begin on May 10. For more, call DSN 466-2883/2868, CIV 09472-83-2883/2868, or stop by the Post Gym, Bldg. 88, for a Letter of Intent.

Softball officials clinic

The softball officials clinic will be held at the Post Gym, May 3-6, beginning nightly at 6 p.m. We are currently looking for umpires and scorekeepers of all skill levels to officiate our unit level softball games. The clinic is free for all participants. For more, call DSN 466-2883/2868, CIV 09172-83-2883/2868.

Cinco de Mayo

The Bowling Center will transform into a Mexican cantina in celebration of Cinco de Mayo, May 5. Enjoy the day-long fiesta with lunch specials, festive

music, homemade salsa and quesadillas for dinner and Cinco de Mayo inspired beverages. For more, call DSN 466-4611, CIV 09472-83-4611.

Cinco De Mayo Youth Center

Grab your maracas and sombrero and celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the Youth Center, May 5. Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to feast on traditional Mexican food from 3-5 p.m., free of charge. For more, call DSN 466-4492, 09472-83-4492.

Kontakt Club zoo trip

The Kontakt club will take a day trip to the Nuremberg Zoo, May 8. Bus transportation to the zoo will be provided. All other expenses, including the cost of admission, are the responsibility of participants. Meet by 9 a.m. at the Hohenfels Schiessstattkapelle. We expect to return at 6 p.m. Space is limited; call Andy Kirschenbauer at 0176-80003950 to reserve seats or for more information. The Kontakt Club is a German-American friendship organization sponsored by the U.S. Army that includes Soldiers, families, other Americans supporting USAG Hohenfels, and German citizens from the surrounding communities.

Arevita Spa

Join ITR on a trip to the spa, May 12. The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. H15, and return around 2-2:30 p.m. The trip is limited to 8 guests and includes a standard facial, eyebrow and half-leg waxing or manicure or pedicure, full body massage, sauna, steambath and "waterbed" and a light lunch. Sign up by May 5 to select your services. The cost is \$130 per person. Other services may be selected upon arrival to the spa. Make sure to bring euro and they do accept the VAT form.

Brewery Tour

Explore all of the different types of beer and traditional food available in Bavaria on this tour, May 15. The bus will depart Hohenfels from ODR, Bldg. H15, at 11 a.m. and return to Hohenfels around 11 p.m. The cost is \$45 per person which includes transportation and brewery tours at each of the stops. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. To reserve seats call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

FAST class

Soldiers that need to raise their General Technical test score or just brush up on basic reading and math skills to prepare for college should consider enrolling in the upcoming Functional Academic Skills Training class. Instruction will be held at the Hohenfels Education Center, Bldg. 351, May 17-26, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Interested Soldiers will need to come to the Education Center to take a TABE diagnostic test and see the counselor for an enrollment form to be signed by their commander. For more, call DSN 466-2882, CIV 09472-83-2882.

Bicycle maintenance class

Learn the basics about taking proper care of your wheels during this course, May 19-20. We will cover all the basics and even some advanced skills that can save you a long walk or a few bucks. The class will focus on mid- to upper-end bikes, equipment and the basic bicycle tools you will need. To register call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Greek Isles cruise

Royal Caribbean International is offering a six-night cruise of the Greek islands, July 10-16, sponsored by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers. The cruise departs Venice, Italy, July 10, and will stop in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Athens and Katakolon, Greece. Prices start at \$750 per person. The deadline to sign up is May 21. For more information or to book the trip, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

Local chapter seeks membership support

Your local First in Battle Chapter needs your membership support. The Association of the United States Army is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army: Active, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, retirees and family members. AUSA is your voice on Capitol Hill. We can build a strong chapter to support this area but we need your participation. Contact Jeanie Anderson at FirstinBattle@ausa.org to join or update your membership.

Garmisch Briefs

FMWR Trips

Unless noted, all events meet at the Pete Burke Center. For more on any of these FMWR trips, contact the Garmisch Outdoor Recreation Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638. Signup for these trips and more at webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/Garmischrec-trac.html.

Prague

April 30-May 2: Prague is often on the top of everyone's list of places to visit in the old world. There will be a "daytime tour" included in the weekend and tickets can also be arranged for those who want to see a ballet (Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake is playing. Cost is only \$270 for the week



PETStravaganza 5K Fun Run

Saturday, May 8
Dragoon Field, Rose Barracks

Run starts at 9:30 a.m.

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY,
EVERY FINISHER GETS A MEMENTO!

Pet Fair, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Best pet trick & best pet or pet/owner costume contests (prizes for all participants), Military Working Dog Demonstration, microchip implantation, educational opportunities: Veterinary Services, Preventive Medicine and Community Health Nurse

2nd Annual P2P Contest

<https://safety.army.mil/peertopeer>

Dates: Oct 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010

Awards & Prizes:

1st place

- USACRC Gold Safe-T award
- MWR/BOSS cash prize of \$2,000

2nd place

- USACRC Silver Safe-T award
- MWR/BOSS cash prize of \$1,250

3rd place

- USACRC Bronze Safe-T award
- MWR/BOSS cash prize of \$500

Eligibility: Active duty, National Guard or Reserve Soldiers



Photo by Eva Bergmann



Photo by Molly Hayden



Photo by Molly Hayden

Above left: Among the many fascinating pieces of art in the Vatican museums are tapestries. This one shows the resurrection of Christ and it’s woven with a special technique so that the figure of Jesus appears to face the viewer from any location in the room. Bottom left: Only three columns and a piece of the architrave of the ancient edifice, The Temple of Castor and Pollux, remain in the Roman Forum. The church of San Lorenzo in Miranda (right), an ancient temple in Rome, stands tall in the Roman Forum, surrounded by other historical remnants and the bustling contemporary Italian culture.

Remains of ancient Roman Empire still command respect

by Eva Bergmann
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Rome, the eternal city, once capital of the Roman Empire, is now capital of Italy. Center of the Catholic Church and metropolis of baroque style as well as the latest fashion, Rome offers a variety of attractions for every taste. What impression this diversified city leaves on you, depends chiefly on the tours you choose to take. Regardless of your preferences, you will not regret traveling to Rome – but you might regret not having more time there.

This article may just be the first piece of the puzzle and a good start for your personal Roman experience. Benvenuto a Roma, la città eterna!

According to legend, Rome was founded by Romulus, son of Mars,

Roman God of War, in 753 B.C. While archeological excavations prove settlements popped up as early as 1000 B.C., scientists estimate the origin of the actual city close to the same time, around 800 B.C.

The fact is, Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire, a wealthy and powerful nation ruling the majority of the ancient world. It is home to many emperors whose fame still lasts today, as do many of their monuments.

Visiting the center of ancient Roman life, the Forum Romanum, today, it is still possible to see traces of the long gone empire. Standing on the Palatine Hill above the Forum, where wealthy Romans lived in extravagant palaces, visitors travel back in time and catch a glimpse of the ancient Roman Empire. Huge ruins of governmental buildings, market places and temples, most of them more than 2000 years old, still indicate the original dimensions of the city center.

Walking through these streets, the relics feel so alive, one half expects to see a Roman walking around the corner in a tunic and sandals at any moment just like you would see in films like Ben Hur or Spartacus.

Ridley Scott’s movie, “Gladiator,” might inspire your imagination when you walk into the Colosseum. Climbing up the dangerously steep

steps of the arena, looking out at the monument, which originally held 50,000-80,000 spectators, may give you an idea of the dramatic scenes that occurred here during countless games – on and off stage.

Today, the wooden floor is gone and the underground rooms, once below stage, where gladiators, slaves and animals awaited their destiny, are now in plain sight. Rumor has it that before these compartments were built, the arena was frequently flooded to allow for stage sea fights. Regardless of the truth of the story, the ancient Romans possessed a highly developed water and sewage system, and water lines did, in fact, lead to the Colosseum.

History buffs should also visit the ancient city of Pompeii which was buried during a volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. and rediscovered in the 18th century. The tragedy made Pompeii one of the best preserved antique cities and definitely worth a daytrip.

Moving forward in time, you can marvel at wonderful works of art in almost every church around town, but pay attention to the dress code and choose appropriate attire. Some of the most extraordinary and famous pieces of art are actually found at the museums of the Vatican.

Vatican City, only is less than 0.2 square miles with roughly 900 citizens, is officially the smallest country in the world and completely encircled by the city of Rome. The last existing absolute monarchy of the western world, the Vatican is ruled by the Pope and his demands are binding law within its borders. You may also regard your ticket to the Vatican museums, which hold one of the world’s largest art collections, as your travel visa to this small country.

For centuries popes have collected art and commissioned artists to craft works of every artistic me-

While the Laokoon group is one of the most significant Vatican sculptures, created approximately between 50 B.C. and 100 A.D., it is only a marble replica of the lost bronze original, which was sculpted around 200 B.C.

Photo by Eva Bergmann

dium. The museums hold paintings, frescos, sculptures, tapestries and much more, ranging from ancient times to modern art. One of its most famous works is the Sistine Chapel. Built during the 15th century, the Sistine Chapel contains frescos of Michelangelo and others. It is important to understand that frescos are pictures painted on wet plaster and artists could only work on small portions of them at a time. The precision with which Michelangelo created these ceiling frescoes at such a close distance to be comfortably visible for spectators from a rather far distance, the chapel is roughly 68 feet high, is impressive.

After studying history and art, why not enjoy a different, more modern side of Rome? Besides Milan, Rome is the place to be for exclusive Italian fashion and you will see many Romans dressing elegantly. Starting at the Piazza di Spagna with the famous Spanish Steps (where young Romans like to meet with friends to go out in the evening) and the Fontana della Barcaccia, a beautiful baroque fountain, tourists can follow the Via

Condotti, Rome’s popular shopping street. Here you will find shops of notable Italian and international designers like Valentino, Armani, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Cartier, Louis Vuitton and many more.

When you’re tired from shopping or walking in general, why not enjoy a true Italian coffee at the Caffè Greco?

The historic cafe officially opened in 1760, but may have been established even earlier, and is the oldest café in Rome and may also be the oldest in Italy. But don’t order water, water is free in Rome – courtesy of the city, not in the cafes but out in the streets. So, as you know, when in Rome ...

Looking around, you will find drinking fountains along your way, roughly 2,500 across town, permanently dispensing high quality drinking water.

The Romans called these Fontanelle or Nasone, basically “big noses,” which describes their appearance rather well. But confine yourself to the Nasone, the water of the other fountains should not be consumed.

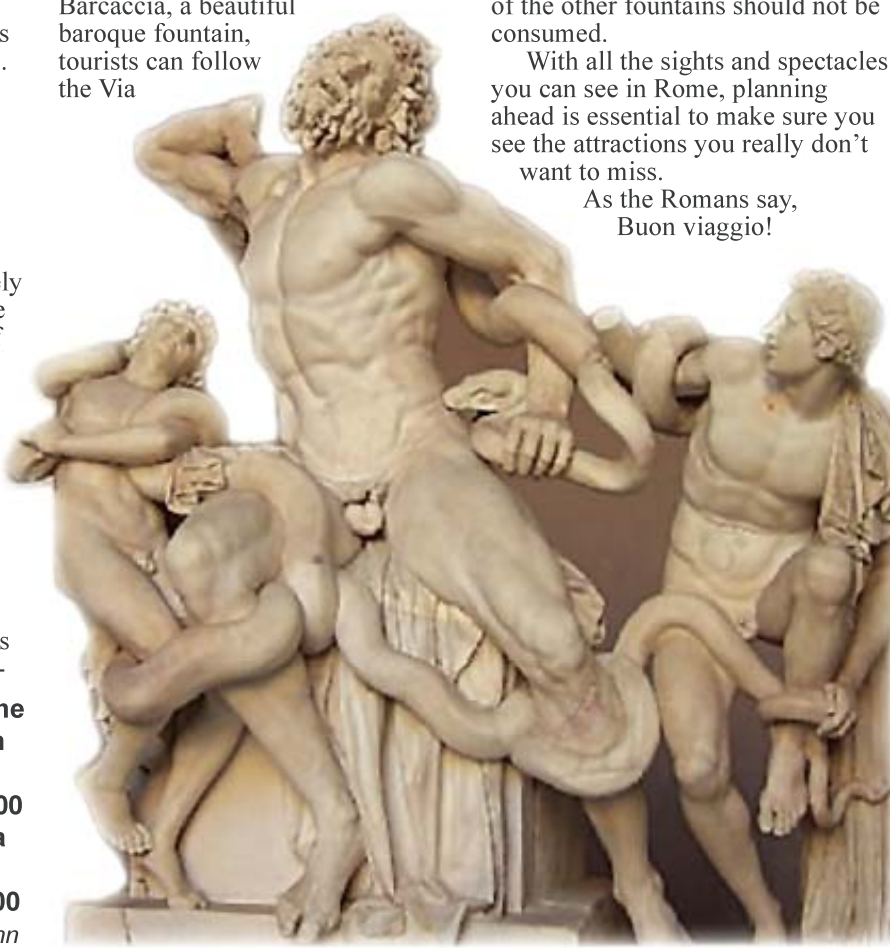
With all the sights and spectacles you can see in Rome, planning ahead is essential to make sure you see the attractions you really don’t want to miss.

As the Romans say,
Buon viaggio!



Photos by Molly Hayden

Top: The Roman Colosseum stands today an impressive remnant of a dynasty lost. Bottom: Fountains abound throughout Rome. Travelers should drink water only from the ones called Nasone.

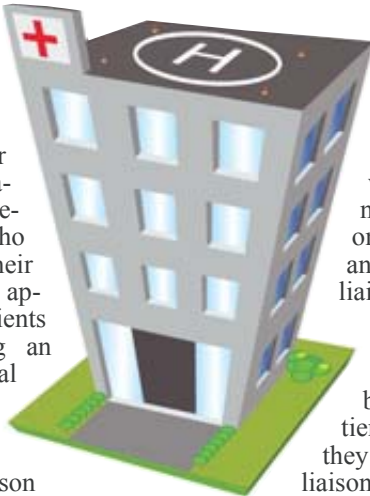


Liaisons available for outpatients

by Jennifer Walsh
BMEDDAC Public Affairs

Seeing a German doctor for the first time just got easier. The Bavaria Medical Department Activity is offering outpatient liaison services on a one-year trial basis beginning May 1. “We’ve increased our use of the host nation outpatient specialties,” said Phyllis Morris-Samuels, referral coordinator. “But sometimes these visits are scary for a person if it’s the first time they’ve used a host nation provider. So to put them at ease, they have the benefit of taking an outpatient liaison with them for their first host nation appointment.” Part of the outpatient liaison’s job is to meet the patient at the host nation provider’s office, translate when necessary, help with paperwork and answer the patient’s questions before, during and after the appointment.

The outpatient liaison service is primarily intended for beneficiaries who have never used a host nation provider before; patients who are going to their first obstetric appointment; or patients who are having an outpatient surgical procedure performed. “One place an outpatient liaison might meet a patient is for a preoperative appointment so the patient clearly understands what they need to do for surgery,” Morris-Samuels said. Patients who need inpatient care will continue to use the Host Nation Patient Liaison program. Unlike outpatient liaisons, the HNPLs



only work with inpatients, or people being admitted to a hospital for care. All outpatient liaisons are familiar with medical terminology and have one-on-one training with an experienced patient liaison before they start assisting patients. “Part of the training that we’ve built for the outpatient liaisons is that they shadow a patient liaison until they feel comfortable about interacting with both the host nation provider and the patient,” Morris-Samuels said. “They also sit with the head nurse or the nurse case manager. We’re trying to equip them to be good liaisons.” The Army health clinics in Bamberg, Grafenwoehr, Hohen-

fels, Illesheim, Katterbach and Vilseck will have at least one outpatient liaison available for beneficiaries. The Schweinfurt Clinic will not have a designated outpatient liaison, but will still offer some outpatient liaison services. “The Schweinfurt Clinic has several patient liaisons on board,” Morris-Samuels said. “They also have a patient liaison that works at the local German hospital. She can facilitate any appointment.” Overall, Morris-Samuels said the goal is for patients to be comfortable getting their health care on the economy. “I hope that by knowing there’s someone they can take along on their first visit that people might not be afraid to go to a host nation provider for health care,” she said. Patients interested in using the outpatient liaison service should contact their clinic’s referral management Office.



Did you know that if you have a problem before, during or after your visit to an Army health clinic you can contact the patient advocate? The patient advocate will assess the situation and ensure you get the care and treatment you deserve. During the next few months, the Bavarian News will feature each of the 15 patient advocates in the Bavaria footprint. To speak with a patient advocate directly, contact your local health clinic.

Bamberg Patient Advocates



Name:
Maj. Vince Myers

Clinic:
U.S. Army Health Clinic, Bamberg

Hometown:
Saegertown, Penn.

Position at the clinic: Chief nurse

How long have you been there:
Nine months.

What do you enjoy most about your job: Taking care of Soldiers, families and civilians, and ensuring they have the best health care experience possible.

What is the one thing patients should know about their health care: Patients are the key to their health and wellness. Great health begins with active patient participation in the total health care experience.

Why should patients come to see you: I can help. As a member of the command team, I see the whole picture and will help resolve challenges in the health system. And if I can’t help, I’ll find someone who can.

Tell me something unique about yourself: I grew up in a town of 800 people. My first experience helping others was as a 15-year-old first responder in the Saegertown Volunteer Fire Department.

.....



Name: 1st Lt. Stephen Looney

Clinic: U.S. Army Health Clinic, Bamberg

Hometown: New Orleans, La.

Position at the clinic: Executive officer.

How long have you been there: Three months.

What do you enjoy most about your job: I like being in a position where I can help people.

What is the one thing patients should know about their health care: The Bamberg Health Clinic is committed to providing the highest quality health care.

Why should patients come to see you: They can come to me for any issues with the health clinic, whether they’re good or bad.

Tell me something unique about yourself: My favorite book is “The Count of Monte Cristo” and I enjoy golfing.

Dependents develop dental dexterity

by Maj. Rand Russell and Tammy Weiss
Bavaria Dental Activity

In October 2006, the American Red Cross, in cooperation with the Bavaria Dental Activity, introduced the American Red Cross Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program to the local garrison community. The American Red Cross Dental Assistant Apprenticeship program is designed to give family members interested in a career in dental assisting the opportunity to develop these skills through a volunteer work program. These skills are broad and vary from office and laboratory work to working chair-side with dentists directly involved in patient care. Dental assistants play an essential role in helping patients feel as comfortable as possible in the dental chair, help prepare them for treatment, and obtain their dental records. Assistants deliver instruments and materials to the dentist and maintain a clear, dry field with the use of suction or other devices. Assistants also disinfect instruments and equipment, take X-rays,

prepare trays of instruments for dental procedures, and instruct patients on postoperative and general oral health care. The Dental Assistant Apprenticeship program consists of two weeks of classroom instruction and 300 hours of chair-side training. Students selected for the program will have six months to complete the required 300 hours of chair-side training. This requires approximately 15-20 hours per week of chair-side time and 40 hours per week for the classroom portion. Candidates selected for the program will experience a wide range of dentistry, which includes general dentistry as well as the various dental specialties. Clinical instruction will include charting, mixing materials, passing instruments, X-rays, infection control, setting up instrument trays, sterilization and running a treatment room. Upon graduation, students will receive a certificate of completion and can continue volunteering in the clinic or apply for employment if an opening arises. Since the start of the program approximately 45 students have graduated from

the five classes. Persons interested in the program must be 18 years of age or older, have a valid military sponsored identification card, have at least one year left on station, as well as complete the required application. Participants must also complete a CPR/first aid course, have current immunizations and undergo a criminal background check. Once the application is submitted to the local Red Cross office it then goes through a selection process after which selected applicants are scheduled for an interview. Upon completion of the interview, candidates are notified of their selection and given a list of prerequisites to complete prior to start of the next class. For more information on the program and any future class dates, contact the local American Red Cross office at DSN 475-1760, CIV 09641-83-1760; The American Red Cross Dental liaison at the Grafenwoehr Dental Clinic at 475-1720, CIV 09641-83-1720; or the Vilseck Dental Clinic at DSN 476-1720, CIV 09662-83-1720. *Editor’s Note: Maj. Rand Russell and Tammy Weiss work at the Grafenwoehr Dental Clinic.*

Preston testifies at congressional committee

Story and photo by
J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army’s senior enlisted advisor told members of Congress, April 14, that what keeps him awake at night is stress on the force. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston testified to the House Appropriations Committee military construction subcommittee alongside his service counterparts from the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. He said that stress across the force affects Soldiers and their families in all three Army components in different ways, depending on whether a Soldier serves in the operational force or the generating force. “Indicators of stress on the force can be seen in the increase of suicide rates again this past year, post-traumatic stress cases also increasing and divorce rates ticking up a little,” Preston said. “I believe the training and the programs we began executing this past year have -- and will continue to make -- a positive impact on these disturbing trends.” Preston added that the committee’s support in past years for family housing, barracks, pay, child care and youth services along with their help in modernizing hospital infrastructure had made a significant impact on retaining “our very best Soldiers and their families.” When asked about deployment cycles, Preston said units were averaging between 15 and 18 months between deployments, depending on unit type, adding that he and Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. had seen a marked difference to the positive with dwell



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston testifies on Capitol Hill about quality of life issues within the Army. The Army’s senior enlisted advisor addressed deployment cycles, suicide prevention and the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program. times more than 12 months. “We expect the dwell time to continue to increase... that by the end of 2011 the active component to be at a one- to-two-year ratio and for the reserve component to be at a one-to-four ratio as a minimum requirement,” Preston said. “Right now we have some Guard and Reserve units that are a little bit less than one in four... that’s the goal by the end of 2011.” With the growth in Soldiers, growth in additional units and organizations, the Army will be able to provide more predictability and stability to the active force, Reserve and National Guard, he said. Committee members expressed concern over the increase in suicides across the services for the fifth consecutive year, asking Preston about the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program and what resources and initiatives the Army was going to use to combat suicide. Citing his written statement to

the committee, Preston said the programs the Army had implemented beginning in February 2009 were making a difference. He noted the Army had 40 suicides in the first two months of 2009 and based on those figures had estimated the service would exceed 220 suicides by the end of that year. Preston said the Army finished 2009 with 160 suicides, an increase of 20 suicides over 2008. “The immediate response was a stand-down day, a chain-teach and that went into a number of interactive videos we put out that’s interactive and based on real-life scenarios to teach first-line supervisors -- leaders at the lowest level -- what the indicators of suicide are and how to deal with those challenges and how to seek help,” he said. According to Preston’s statement, the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force identified more than 250 different tasks related to suicide-prevention doctrine, organiza-

tion, training, material, leadership, personnel and facilities. The written testimony stated the Army had implemented more than 90 percent of those tasks to date and would continue to review and assess the effectiveness of Army health promotion, risk reduction and suicide prevention programs at all levels. Preston also elaborated on the role of the Master Resilience Trainer, the latest inclusion into the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program. He said the Army had partnered with the University of Pennsylvania to develop trainers who would then teach Soldiers how to increase their strength, resilience and performance. He told the committee the four-pillared program included an online assessment tool to determine strengths and weaknesses which would then be followed by confidential self-help modules. The objective of the CSF program is to focus on prevention and building strength along with resiliency versus providing treatment after a problem occurs. “We now have approximately 800 Master Resilience Trainers that have been trained in the 10-day course, and we’ve just opened our own school Fort Jackson, S.C., to begin training a total of 5,400 MRTs for the Army,” Preston said. The Army’s immediate goal is to have one MRT per battalion across the Army, he said, adding that the long-term goal was for leaders to look at spreading MRTs out to all companies, troops and batteries. He said MRTs would also be placed in all professional military education courses from recruit training through the Sergeants Major Academy to the War College.

Garmisch observes Days of Remembrance

by **Capt. Kyle Greenberg**
USAG Garmisch

Garmisch Middle School students and community members visited the European Holocaust Memorial in Landsberg, Bavaria, April 8, in observance of the Days of Remembrance.

Days of Remembrance was established by the U.S. Congress as the United States' annual commemoration of the Holocaust.

Jessica Roberson of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation organized the event as a learning experience that capitalized on the garrison's proximity to a former Nazi concentration camp.

"A luncheon or a community gathering is a great way to recognize Women's History Month or Martin Luther King's Birthday," Roberson explained. "But for this month, I thought that it would be a tremendous opportunity for students and community members to stand on the ground where some of the horrible tragedies of the Holocaust occurred."

Before the trip departed, Roberson educated participants on the history of Landsberg, which became a base of Nazi support after 1923, the year Adolf Hitler wrote "Mein Kampf" during his nine-month imprisonment in the city's jail. Landsberg earned the nickname "the city of youth" after the Nazi youth marched there from Nuremberg following the Nazi Party Congresses of 1937 and 1938.

In 1944, the camp known as Kaufering VII was just outside of the city limits of modern day Landsberg. It became a work camp where the Nazis could transport prisoners from Auschwitz and other death camps to

help build Luftwaffe fighter planes.

After the war, Landsberg became a displaced persons camp for Jewish refugees until 1951. Memories of the camp gradually diminished prior to the founding of the Citizens' Association of Landsberg in the 20th Century in 1983. The Citizens' Association purchased some of the land where the former concentration camps stood and used the land to build the European Holocaust Memorial.

Manfred Deiler, one of the association's original eight members, said the land purchase was an attempt to preserve the memory of the genocide of Jews and other Nazi political prisoners in the 11 camps in vicinity of the towns of Kaufering and Landsberg. For the past 27 years the association has preserved the last original traces of the former concentration camps and has collected materials, documents, data, sources and eyewitness accounts related to the camps and the history of Landsberg.

During the garrison's visit to the memorial, Deiler and his colleague and fellow co-founder, Anton Posset, volunteered to act as a tour guide for the visitors from Garmisch. Both children and adults witnessed how more than 150 women prisoners lived in huts not much larger than a two-bedroom apartment and read documents describing how the prisoner's Nazi captors attempted to understate their roles in the atrocities they committed. Posset showed his group the lid of a jar that was presumably used to store a prisoner's meager rations.

"There was something very moving about seeing the jar lid. It is difficult to imagine that this was the only thing the prisoner could ever



Photo by Drew Benson

Manfred Deiler of the Citizens' Association of Landsberg in the 20th Century shares documents describing the liberation of the Kaufering VII concentration camp to Garmisch Middle School students.

call his own," said Lawrence Tindall, FMWR, who translated for Posset.

Deiler showed students the hardships prisoners experienced while Posset explained to adults some of the difficulties the association has faced while attempting to preserve the camps.

"Some of the people who live in this area would prefer that the remains of these camps just go away, but we feel it is more important to

preserve history, even if we do not like it," said Posset.

Even though the majority of the tour was somber, the day was not limited to explaining why Nazi acts deserve opprobrium. Deiler had children read testimonies of American Soldiers who helped liberate the camps in April 1945, and the tour concluded with the group learning about the countries and organizations from around the world that contrib-

uted to the memorial to ensure that similar crimes never recur.

Addressing the children directly, Posset reminded them that "one day it will be your responsibility to remember what you witness and to ensure that such horrors never happen again."

Editor's Note: Capt. Kyle Greenberg, is the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch.

High hedge hacked, hampered hidden helipad



Photo by John Reese

The helipad on Sheridan Kaserne was shut down for a week as about two feet of overgrown hedge was trimmed down by Directorate of Public Works employees and a contractor. The hedge haircut had been postponed on previous attempts due to bad weather, allowing it to grow high enough — about 15 feet! — so that it blocked the helipad's landing lights. Garrison Safety Officer Andy Tuerk supervised the work and directed vehicle and foot traffic of Edelweiss Lodge and Resort guests away from falling debris. "We got a break in the weather," said Tuerk. "It just had to be done."

FRG established at Garmisch

by **Doris Tyler**
Director of ACS, USAG Garmisch

Being a working mom doesn't leave much time for volunteering, especially when starting the first family readiness group program for Garmisch from the ground up, but Nanette O'Hara is contributing her time and talents to this special endeavor.

O'Hara, spouse of Military Police Staff Sgt. Timothy O'Hara, took on the additional duty of FRG leader for USAG Garmisch in March. She held the first meeting after the last town hall and was very well attended. The FRG followed up by hosting an egg hunt for children in the community. The next scheduled event is a Mother's Day potluck barbecue, May 8, and then the group plans to hold monthly get-togethers.

"The first meeting was just an overview to introduce myself and others that have volunteered for FRG," explained O'Hara. "We have some exciting things planned for the next couple of months."



O'Hara

O'Hara brings more than 22 years of experience as a military spouse to the group. She has been stationed at unusual duty stations like Crete, Greece and Incirlik, Turkey. She also knows what it is like to be a military child, her father having served eight years with the Marines. In addition to her FRG leader responsibilities, she is

pursuing her bachelor's degree in accounting while working as a contractor for the garrison.

"The best thing about the military lifestyle is traveling and seeing things you wouldn't see," said O'Hara.

FRGs provide a connection to the unit through which families get important information, develop friendships and receive moral support. Successful FRGs will enhance family readiness, thereby increasing unit readiness for military missions.

Samurai serving



Photo by John Reese

Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Sears uses his samurai sword to slice a cake following his promotion to field grade officer, April 19, while his wife Danielle and daughters Kylie, 6, and Victoria, 15, watch. The sword was given to him as a gift during his tour of duty at Camp Zama, Japan. Sears is shown in this grainy photo from USA Today (inset) conducting services in Iraq as chaplain for the 11th Engineer Battalion (Combat). He has rapidly integrated himself and his family into the Garmisch community since arriving.

\$5M CDC centralizes services in Ansbach

Story and photo by

Ronald H. Toland Jr.

USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

After months of preparation, the new Child Development Center facility in Storck Barracks broke ground, April 14. The following day, a ground-breaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction for the new Army lodge in Urlas.

The \$5 million project on Storck Barracks will not only be a new building, but centralized — as opposed to the two buildings where the current child development center is housed — with a more state-of-the-art upgrade and to better standards.

“This is a zero-to-10-year-old (children) modular CDC,” said Mike Miller, Child and Youth Services Program operations specialist.

“It will have early childhood programming as well as school-age programming supporting the community,” he said.

According to Miller, the current main CDC was constructed in 1995, the attached annex in 1937, and School Age Services in 1967. He said although the current facility is “functional,” the new one provides more and better services for the community, will house more customers, is more family friendly and the move will be transparent for currently registered families with children who use the facility.

“The community needs more spaces and the new CDC is more modular, which is exciting because it will be complete by November of this year,” he said.

“In addition, it has more modern developmentally age-appropriate amenities,” he said. “But nothing changes in the protocol — the children will transfer seamlessly right into the new facility,” he added.

And Miller stated this \$5 million project is a deal.

“What is interesting is that this package includes furniture and equipment, as well as a team to set it up that goes along with it—it is coming already furnished,” he said. “And for a new CDC with a 105 capacity, that is very inexpensive.”

And those involved with the design say the modular facility is compliant and correlative.

“We’ve ensured that all the safety measures possible were designed into the facility,” said John Curtis, construction chief for the Army Corps of Engineers in Europe.

“Our pledge is to work diligently ensuring a quality facility, fostering the best child care en-



Eligiah Ham, Storck AST manager; John Hartman, Ansbach Garrison Child, Youth and School Services coordinator; Col. Christopher Hickey, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach garrison commander; USAG Ansbach’s Command Sgt. Maj. Lester Stephens; and Lt. Col. Bryan Hoff, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade rear detachment commander, break ground at the new Storck Barracks Child Development Center site, April 14. The building will provide a more consolidated, state-of-the-art CDC.

vironment possible,” he added.

“It is an excellent facility and will complement future projects on Storck Barracks,” said Matt Ludwig, regional program manager for the Corps of Engineers and for the CDC project, design and construction.

But Miller stated this kind of project not only boosts community morale, but shows commitment on behalf of the garrison to its customers.

“This shows dedication to the quality of life,” he said. “The Department of the Army and this community has raised and maintained the quality of life, and really supports the concept of the Army Family Covenant — supporting the community of Storck Barracks, with dedication and ensuring the quality of life for the families,” he added.

The garrison commander agreed.

“The new center will create improvements in the quality of recreational programs and after-school activities for the children and youth of Storck Barracks,” said Col. Christopher Hickey, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach garrison commander, in his opening remarks.

“This project promotes the values of the Army Family Covenant in improving the quality of life standards for Army families,” he added.

Not only does the leadership agree the new location is an improvement, facility managers believe it is beneficial to better operations, thus further benefitting families.

“The new CDC allows us to consolidate our programs and bring staff together,” said John Hartman, Ansbach Garrison Child, Youth and School Services coordinator. “It’s a smart way to operate our programs.”

Adding to the housing currently under construction at the Urlas Site, the new Army lodge facility is underway.

“A new Army lodge is critical to making a great first impression on incoming Soldiers and Family members — it is usually a newcomer’s first stop in the community and their experience sets the tone for their arrival at Ansbach,” said Laura Waid, business operations officer for USAG Ansbach.

She said the new lodge and its location will coincide well with the other new facilities being built there.

“The Urlas site will be an excellent location for newcomers to arrive as it will eventually be the site for the new commissary and AAFES Exchange,” she added.

“The community will benefit greatly from this new facility, which is the first impression that our garrison makes on incoming personnel,” said Hickey.

According to historical data provided by Waid, the current lodge, located on Bismarck Kaserne, is in a building that was built in 1972 as a bachelor officers’ quarters, renovated into the current lodge in the ‘80s and has since had several smaller renovations, thus keeping it neat and welcoming.

In light of the current lodge, Waid said that the new design has better functionality and purpose.

“The new 26-room Army Lodge, scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2011, will consist of six standard guest rooms, one extended-stay guest room with a kitchenette, and 19 extended-stay family suites, offering a separate bedroom, sitting/living area, and kitchenettes,” she said.

In addition to those amenities, Waid said that the over \$10 million project will house a fitness room.

“The new hotel construction is one example of the Army fulfilling its promise to the Army Family in accordance with the Army Family Covenant,” said Waid.

“Soldiers and community members deserve high quality facilities, which increase their morale and their pride in living and working in USAG Ansbach,” she added.

“It is exciting to break ground on these two projects, especially knowing that this is just the beginning of hundreds of millions of dollars in new construction and renovation for the garrison,” said Dan Riley, director of Ansbach Garrison, Directorate Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

USAG Ansbach
Authorized On Post Taxi Service

Telephone Numbers:
0981 5005
0981 19410

Upon calling Taxi Dispatch, request a driver with a U.S. Installation Pass and provide the following details:

- Pick up point
- Your name and number
- Time of pick-up
- Number of passengers
- Destination

Notify the dispatcher

- If traveling to the airport, number/size of luggage
- If you are taking a stroller

Payment only in Euro

As part of a new project led by the garrison’s Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, taxi cabs will be able to come on-post to pick up and deliver residents to their front doors.

Residents get on-post taxi

by **Ronald H. Toland**

USAG Ansbach Public Affairs

Great news! Taxi cabs are now allowed to come on post and pick-up and deliver Soldiers and families to their front doors.

“This provides for greater mobility and opportunity for Soldiers, families and dependents,” said Capt. Lori Berryman, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach officer in charge for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, who is leading the project.

In addition, she said providing such a service gives the garrison an opportunity to build on its already exceptional relationship with the host nation.

“The purpose is to make things easier on families by being picked up and dropped off at stairwells with their children and accoutrements, as well as for the convenience of Soldiers to be picked-up and dropped-off at barracks on the weekends. Plus, it reduces the number of DUIs,” added Berryman.

She said it is a pleasure for the garrison to officially offer a taxi service and that drivers have already been cleared through proper channels.

“Drivers are equipped with U.S. installation passes, which grants them access to

pick up and drop off anywhere within Ansbach’s installations, for example: stairwell housing, barracks, commissary, bowling alley, library and the PX,” said Berryman.

However, there is a caveat.

“It is requested that these drivers are used only for on-post pick-up and drop-off.”

The taxi service is ultimately for the benefit of the community of and families of deployed Soldiers, while loved ones are downrange. Berryman said the service also has another purpose.

“It affords more independence and takes stress off spouses,” she said. “It keeps parents from having to walk all the way to the gate, pushing strollers with children; or having to try and drive somewhere just to come up against the issue of direction and parking,” she added.

Finally, Berryman offered some useful advice to keep in mind when using the service.

“We strongly suggest conducting yourself in a respectful manner out of consideration for our host nation — we are all representatives of the United States of America,” she said.

The same service is scheduled for Storck Barracks, but Berryman said the details are still being worked out.

Budget drives gate closures, not residents’ convenience

Maj. Craig Schuh

USAG Ansbach Directorate of Emergency Services

At the beginning of the month, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach reduced the hours of the High School Gate to 6 a.m.- 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Since that change, the Directorate of Emergency Services has received customer feedback from the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system regarding this decision and the effects on community members. First and foremost, I want to assure the community members that this decision was not made in a vacuum — there was a lengthy evaluation process of the effects of the reduction of hours, both internally and by the Army Audit Agency.

By way of background, the U.S. Army Europe Security Contract is the single most expensive contract in Europe. The Department of Army mandated a contract security guard reduction of 4-10 percent as times are tight financially. The Department of the Army has, in conjunction with USAREUR and individual garrisons, reviewed the traffic flow at every Access Control Point (ACP). This in-depth survey was conducted last June and ran for 14 days. This occurred prior to the bulk of the Combat Aviation Brigade’s deployment, so the numbers used were an accurate reflection of the needs of the community.

The intent of the survey was to determine the “appropriate” manning requirements for each ACP based on vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The manning standards used by DA are not always correct for an OCONUS environment and the DES submitted a reclama justifying the manning we legitimately need to provide for the security of our installations without breaking the bank.

As a general rule, installations are legitimately authorized a single entry/exit ACP, although certain installations with training areas require additional ACPs to handle military vehicular traffic. Katterbach currently has three (the Main Gate, the Exit Gate and the High School Gate). For all intents and purposes,

es, the High School Gate should have been permanently closed, but due to the proximity of the gate to the schools, we justified keeping it open during the week. As for the chosen hours, 6 a.m.- 6 p.m., we had to use a 12-hour block of time to accommodate the shift scheduling requirements. Six o’clock in the morning allows for Soldiers coming in for PT in the mornings and 6 p.m. allows for the activity busses leaving the school in the afternoons.

As government employees, we are stewards of government funds. As the director of Emergency Services, I have an obligation to the members of this community to ensure that the safety and well being of our military, civilian and family members is our top priority. The closure of the High School Gate and reduction of hours, albeit inconvenient, allows me to accomplish both of these tasks. USAG Ansbach was able to reduce the cost of the contract security guard for our garrison by seven percent with the incorporation of the reduction of the High School Gate. The reductions at the High School Gate itself will save the Army approximately \$250,000 per year. This reduction, along with three others being incorporated, will ultimately save the Army \$1.78 million annually.

We have all grown accustomed to the convenience of having the High School Gate open seven days-a-week, but the reality is that our funding levels no longer allow for the “convenience” of a seven-day ACP. Look no further than Storck Barracks to see how a large installation can function with one primary entry ACP and an exit gate. There is little difference in the size of these installations and community members in Illesheim have made it work.

While we are sorry that certain members of the community find the reductions at the High School Gate inconvenient, we have an obligation to be fiscally responsible without incurring undue safety and security risks. Please be understanding as we work through these changes.

Editor’s Note: Maj. Craig Schuh is the director of USAG Ansbach’s Directorate of Emergency Services.

Have a story idea? Call DSN 468-1600, CIV 09811-83-1600

USAREUR commander visits Schweinfurt



Gen. Carter Ham, U.S. Army Europe commander, speaks with Schweinfurt's Lord Mayor Gudrun Grieser. Ham visited Schweinfurt, April 16, to present the lord mayor a token of his appreciation for her dedication and service to the U.S. Army garrison in Schweinfurt. Lord Mayor Gudrun Grieser is retiring from her position after 18 years in office.

Ham thanks Lord Mayor Grieser for her exceptional service in the community

Story and photos by
Nathan Van Schaik
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Gen. Carter Ham, commander, U.S. Army Europe, visited Schweinfurt, April 16, to present the city's lord mayor a token of his appreciation for her dedication and service to the U.S. Army in general and the Schweinfurt garrison in particular.

"There is no better community for Soldiers in all of Germany than in Schweinfurt," Ham said. "It is home away from home, which is like no other place else."

Lord Mayor Gudrun Grieser is retiring from her position after 18 years in office. Through



U.S. Army Europe Commander Gen. Carter Ham signs the Golden Book of the City of Schweinfurt at city hall next to Lord Mayor Gudrun Grieser. "With my heartfelt thanks, for all that the people of Schweinfurt have done for our Soldiers and families," Ham wrote.

it all, Grieser was responsible for strengthening German and American relations through her work and efforts. Among her lengthy list of initiatives demonstrating her support, she facilitated garrison construction projects, participated in garrison events, and supported American troops and families during repeated deployments by sponsoring events and trips. She is perhaps best remembered for her support after the devastating Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Grieser extended her warm welcome to the general by offering him to sign the Golden Book of the City of Schweinfurt. The book — nearly

a century old and signed by such diplomats as the King of Sweden — is signed by prominent figures and those making significant contributions to the city.

"With my heartfelt thanks, for all that the people of Schweinfurt have done for our Soldiers and families," wrote Ham above his signature in the book.

Americans have been in Schweinfurt for more than six decades and there are more German-American families across the world today than ever before, Grieser said.

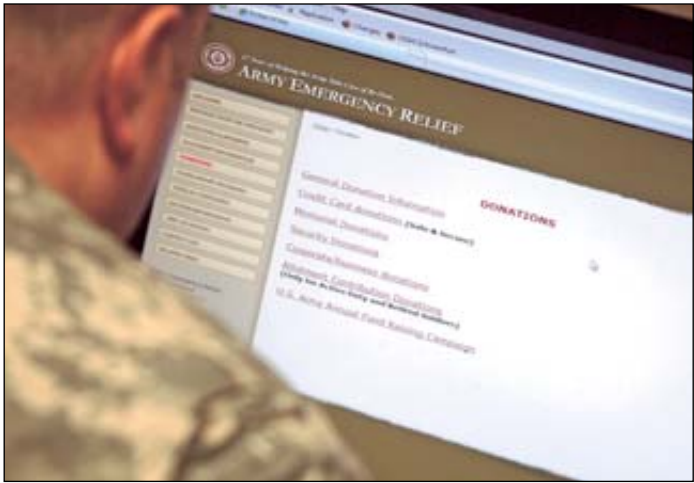
"The feeling here is that you are family

now," Grieser said to Ham, referring to all those under his watch.

After exchanging mementos, Ham and Grieser discussed the importance of Schweinfurt to the U.S. Army. Retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, retired Gen. George Joulwan and current assistant to the president Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute were among just a few prominent officials to have had their roots in Schweinfurt, the two reminisced.

Both leaders expressed hopes the city of Schweinfurt would serve as home to the U.S. Army for many years to come.

Army relief fundraising campaign to end soon



The Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign ends May 15. Schweinfurt benefactors have already exceeded their goal by over \$10,000, but there's still time to donate more. "We should be able to reach \$50,000 for a community this size," said Tony Pryor, Schweinfurt AER campaign coordinator.

Story and photo by
Nathan VanSchaik
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

It's not too late make donations to the annual Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign — the Army's premier financial assistance program set aside to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. The campaign ends May 15.

"Time is running out," said Tony Pryor, Schweinfurt's AER campaign coordinator.

Pryor's plan to raise more money for the campaign is as ambitious as it is realistic. Schweinfurt benefactors have already exceeded the goal of raising \$25,000. To date, a total of \$35,111 has been collected. Of the 56 percent of the Schweinfurt Soldiers who have been personally notified of the campaign, 40 percent have contributed, according to Pryor.

"We should be able to reach \$50,000 for a community this size," Pryor said.

Last year, Schweinfurt benefactors gave \$26,420 in contributions, according to Darryl Jones, Army Community Service (ACS) Financial Readiness Program manager.

Because it helps all Soldiers, AER deserves the support of all Soldiers, Pryor said.

"The campaign raises funds for Army Emergency Relief," he said. "What Army Emergency Relief does is take care of Soldiers

when they have emergencies. Any Soldier can fall on hard times and this is a way for Soldiers to help other Soldiers."

Contributing is easy. Soldiers can receive a contribution form (DA form 4908) from their AER unit representative or donate online at www.aerhq.org. Or, according to Pryor, Soldiers can walk into the AER office located at the Army Community Service building on Ledward Barracks.

Payments can be made in allotments, or can be single cash or credit card donations.

Since its inception in 1942, AER has assisted more than 3.2 million Soldiers and family members with over \$1.2 billion, according to the most current AER annual report. In 2009, AER provided \$79 million in assistance to over 71,000 Soldiers and their families worldwide.

"Last year in 2009 we gave out a total of \$230,791.94 in interest-free loans," Pryor said. "We also gave out another \$62,759.94 in grants. So last year there were a total of 202 interest free loans and 50 grants."

Army Emergency Relief helps with emergency financial needs for such items as food, rent, utilities, transportation, vehicle repair, and medical and funeral expenses without placing a cap on assistance. Additionally, AER provides college scholarships to children, spouses and surviving spouses of Soldiers.

For more, contact Tony Pryor at CIV 09721-96-7060 or visit the Schweinfurt garrison Web site at schweinfurt.army.mil.

Safety office reaches public through safety courses, Internet

Story and photo by
Nathan Van Schaik
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

As the Army's 2010 Safe Summer campaign gets underway, the Schweinfurt garrison safety specialists are gearing up for the summer.

Statistics show that fatality rates inevitably increase from April to September, according to Brig. Gen. William Wolf, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center commanding general and director of Army Safety.

"In fiscal 2009, almost 40 percent of our accidents occurred during this timeframe, with POV and motorcycle accidents leading the way every month," he said in an Army Safety press release.

This campaign, which runs April 1 – Sept. 30, focuses on providing

Soldiers, civilians and their family members the information they need to "play it safe" this summer.

So what is the garrison doing to ensure the safety of the Schweinfurt community? A lot, according to Eddie Sauer, garrison safety manager.

"Of course, what we do is in support of 2010 Safe Summer campaign," Sauer said. "But we are also running many programs and training seminars outlined in our training plan."

In May, for example, the safety office will host a motorcycle skills refresher training course in cooperation with personnel from Schweinfurt's drivers testing facility.

"The course will be open to U.S. personnel and German local nationals," said Juergen Hoechemer, garrison safety specialist.

"Also, everyone can expect to

see an array of useful motorcycle info during the month of May," which is National Motorcycle Awareness Month.

As summer beckons, Sauer and his team of safety specialists will publish a list of authorized swimming areas in the coming weeks as well as maintain vigilance over the heat index. Together, they will inspect all the garrison playgrounds, organize first aid training and facilitate a host of safety courses throughout the summer.

In addition to its summertime preparation, the safety office has taken strides to extend its reach to tenant units and the community by making its presence on the World Wide Web.

"Many people call us about safety concerns. Now we can tell people to go to the Web site," Sauer said.

The new safety pages offer a wide range of information appealing to Soldiers, family members and both German and American DA employees. There, you can keep up to date with the latest recalls and safety alerts. Soldiers can download training for rail loading and even obtain their arms room license. Vehicle operators can use the online tool to assist in getting their U.S. Army Europe license. Employees can learn how to report hazards while everyone can access critical seasonal tips.

To receive further guidance and advice on all safety and occupational health related issues, or to report a safety hazard, contact the Schweinfurt safety office. Either visit the safety Web page at schweinfurt.army.mil or call CIV 09721-96-1670.



Schweinfurt garrison safety specialists broke out this calculator used to determine the effect of heat conditions on people. The safety office makes preparations for the summer as the Army recently kicked off its 2010 Safe Summer campaign.

Fishing license still has allure

by **Eva Bergmann**
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

While being stationed in Europe comes with its perks, it also has its disadvantages. For one, obtaining your fishing license in Germany seems to be a long process snared in the complexities of German law. But now that process is much more convenient. Schweinfurt’s Outdoor Recreation Center offers a fishing license class for Soldiers and their family members.

ODR’s fishing class consolidates the lengthy process into a hands-on, 30-hour weekend seminar. The cost for the class is \$65. In addition to the German processing fees, an avid fisherman will pay roughly 160 dollars to obtain the license.

The fishing license class teaches ichthyology, hydrology, proper fishing equipment, current fishing law and environmental standards. After fulfilling the 30-hour training requirement, participants must pass an oral and written exam in order to receive the certificate of examination.

“We are able to offer this class in English language because we are licensed and officially acknowledged instructors,” said Christian Hofstetter, USAG Schweinfurt’s Outdoor Recreation director. “This is a one-of-a-kind chance, unless you want to try passing it in German.”

After receiving your certificate of examination, you’re only a small step away from obtaining a fishing license from either the local town hall, the German “Rathaus” or the county hall known as the “Landratsamt.” In order to purchase your fishing license here, you will need the following:

1) Two copies of AE Form 215-145B Application for German Fishing License, signed by the applicant’s commander.

2) A copy of AE Form 215-145C Certificate of Examination, issued by a U.S. forces hunting and fishing program office. (Schweinfurt’s Outdoor Recreation Center will issue this.)

3) A passport-size photograph. Photographs can be obtained at Conn Barracks, Bldg. 73. Call DSN 353-8026, CIV 09721-96-8026.

The fishing license itself is good for life, but will have to be validated every five years. Aspiring fishermen should be aware though, cautions Hofstetter, that in addition to a valid fishing license you will need a fishing permit for the specific body of water in which you want to fish.

“There’s often a misconception because a



Courtesy photo

The process for obtaining your fishing license in Germany has just become much more convenient with Schweinfurt’s Outdoor Recreation Center’s fishing license class for Soldier’s and their family members. “This is a one-of-a-kind chance, unless you want to try passing it in German,” said Christian Hofstetter, USAG Schweinfurt’s Outdoor Recreation director.

lot of times people don’t know what the difference between a fishing license and a fishing permit is,” Hofstetter explained.

“People who go out there without a permit will have an issue, because then it’s poaching, and poaching has a minimum fine of 250 euro,” Hofstetter said. He emphasized that lakes and rivers are constantly supervised by official fish wardens.

While adults ages 16 and up who want to fish will have to present a valid license and permit, the law allows children to fish without a license or a permit under the supervision of a licensed adult.

“Fishing is a great sport, very relaxing, and it also gives you a great chance to socialize with local fishermen,” said Hofstetter. “Fishermen are very friendly people, especially if you know and understand their lingo

and that’s also part of our course.”

Hofstetter knows that obtaining a fishing license in Germany comes with obstacles, but he and his team are eager to help with the formalities.

“Most people think fishing in Germany is ridiculously expensive and that it requires a lot of paperwork, but that’s not really true,” explained Hofstetter. “Just swing by your local Outdoor Recreation and we will tell you the facts on what to do and how to do it.”

“It’s not easy, but it’s not that hard either, and we’re here to help,” he added.

The next fishing license course at USAG Schweinfurt’s Outdoor Recreation starts May 14. Preregistration is required and space is limited. For more information or to sign up, contact Outdoor Recreation at DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.



In her music awareness classes Elena Popov uses very modern instruments like the Boomwhackers, which are child-proof plastic tubes that produce different tone pitches.

Music supports children’s development

Story and photo by
Eva Bergmann
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

Already at early ages, children start showing particular interests, and exude their growing talents. The Schweinfurt Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES Unlimited) provides various programs to help children discover and develop their personal talents. One of these programs is Music Awareness.

The classes are small and divided by age groups to guarantee children’s needs for attention and support are met, according to Elena Popov, music awareness instructor. Popov, a professional and experienced music educator, is specialized at working with children and teaches the music awareness classes once a week at the School Age Center on Askren Manor. Children ages 3-6 are welcome to join and experience is not required.

“I help children to develop their music ear,” Popov said, highlighting how easily the children absorb the learning material. “They learn about rhythm and music grammar by singing, writing and playing games. In my classes I use music, songs and melodies that the children already know very well, which makes it easy for them to pick up new information.”

In her classes, Popov integrates traditional methodic concepts of established educators like Carl Orff and Zoltán Kodály as well as very modern instruments like Boomwhackers, which are very popular among children. Boomwhackers are child-proof plastic tubes, which come in different colors and sizes; each size holds a different tone pitch.

While the children have fun beating the Boomwhackers against the floor, their hands and their feet, at the same time they are practicing fundamental concepts in rhythm, harmony and melody, Popov said.

“Some of the first experiences children make are auditory,” she explained. “I believe children start to learn about the world through sounds and they actively react on them. By the age of three, kids normally have a very rich auditory experience. So already at this early age musical development is possible and even especially valuable to develop their talents and their personality.”

“Music gives the children a great chance to establish a feeling of self-worth,” Popov added, mentioning that the children accomplish more than just progress in their musical education.

By learning new tasks and completing them successfully, children become more aware of themselves, their abilities and, in turn, gain self-confidence. From time to time, Popov invites parents to join the class for little recitals, in which the children proudly present their skills.

According to Peter Potter, director of SKIES Unlimited, participating in the music awareness program also teaches children to concentrate on a specific task, and develop a good sense of discipline and organization, which might help them to stay focused later on in school.

“Recent research also shows that music in general, and therefore also our music awareness classes, can help the children developing their math skills and to organize themselves,” Potter explained. “It’s because music activates and stimulates the same areas of the brain that are needed later when the kids do math.”

Potter also emphasized the high standards SKIES Unlimited sets for its staff. The children’s safety and the quality of the classes are some of the main focuses of his work. Besides the qualification and experience teachers have to provide to work at SKIES Unlimited, Potter also conducts quality checks on a regular basis. He joins the classes from time to time to see how the instructors guide their classes and how they interact with the children. He also gathers parent feedback and is approachable for all their questions at any time.

“We are offering all kinds of different classes for children as young as four weeks and up to 18 years old,” Potter said. “SKIES Unlimited aims to offer kids various valuable options to spend their leisure time in a fun and positive way. We want to get them out and engaged to play, learn, to advance their talents and therefore help develop their own personality as they grow up.”

Camp builds character through faith

Story and photo by
Eva Bergmann
USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

During spring break, with school being out, children enjoy a lot of leisure time to pursue their favorite activities. One highlight many kids look forward to is the annual spring character camp, sponsored by Ledward Chapel in partnership with CYSS, SAC and Youth Sports.

The Character Camp is a Christian faith-based community program designed to build spiritual maturity and character in young children, grades one to five. The program includes character building classes, fun activities and a field trip. The theme of this year’s character camp was “Walk in God’s Character.”

Donna Hilley, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt’s director of religious education and character camp coordinator emphasized how the program thrives on the help of numerous volunteers, including Golden Knights from the middle school, parents, chaplain assistants, education coordinators and more — many of whom gave up their own spring break to support the program, personally manifesting the very values of the program.

Hilley also expressed the importance of the many supporting partners. Culligan delivered free water and Medical Department Activity provided an on-site medic. Representatives from Women, Infants and Children, Andrews Federal Credit Union, Army Substance Abuse Program, Army Community Service, Child Youth and School Services and School Age Center taught classes on nutrition, money management, drug awareness, communication and safety.

“We start of every day with a special worship for kids and then we have a spiritual lesson relating to the program’s theme,” Hilley said. “Afterwards, we break up into arts and crafts, which was taught by CYSS, and other classes. During that time we alternate every 20 minutes within our classes so every child gets a chance to do everything every day.”

During the daily Biblical lessons, Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin Forrester made a point of giving practical examples for the abstract concepts, meeting eye-to-eye with the mostly 6- and 7-year-olds. At the same time, he emphasized the importance of teaching Christian values, which he points out to be the moral basis in all Western countries.

“Too often we see children that don’t have any kind of faith upbringing also lacking strong clear moral upbringing. The two run hand-in-hand,” Forrester explained. He also highlighted how a lack of faith in childhood can hinder the development of belief later on in life.

“What we have seen is that most kids, when given the opportunity and if they don’t have it in their upbringing, won’t choose it, because it’s foreign to them,” Forrester said.



Children enjoy a barbeque during Ledward Chapel’s Character Camp. The camp is a Christian faith-based community program that builds spiritual maturity and character in children and includes classes, activities and a field trip.

According to Forrester, faith builds resiliency and therefore helps children cope with difficulties. This can be especially helpful for children growing up with the challenges of military life, even more so at times of war, with parents serving multiple deployments.

Following the Army Family Covenant, Forrester declares it to be the foremost aim of the chapel’s staff to reach out to the community and take care of the Soldiers’ and families’ needs. That includes, in addition to regular Sunday services, multiple programs and an open-door policy.

“We do believe that we have a covenant to take care of the families of service members,” Forrester said. “This is why we do this program and many other programs for the children of the community, because each one of these kids matter to the Army, they matter to us, and they certainly matter to God.”

The next program Ledward Chapel offers for children in kindergarten through sixth-grade will be a vacation Bible school, held in early August. For more information on this or other programs of the Ledward Chapel, call DSN 354-1370, CIV 09721-96-1370.

Proper training, gear means safe riding

by Sgt. Maj. Cameron Porter

21st Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Motorcycle riding is an exciting and enjoyable hobby, but it can also be very risky and dangerous. Servicemembers, civilians and their families stationed in Europe must make safety their number one priority when they choose to operate a motorcycle here.

Safe motorcycle riding includes wearing the proper protective clothing and equipment, seeking out opportunities for education and training, and following DOD and Army regulations as well as host nation and local laws.

Army accident rates show that motorcycle operators are at a much higher risk of being killed in an accident when compared to travelers in a passenger vehicle, said Scott Livingston, a safety and health specialist with U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern.

“Overall our motorcycle rider population in the Army is very low, however, they generally account for almost one third of our traffic deaths,” Livingston said.

For example, out of 109 Army private motor vehicle fatalities in fiscal year 2009, 32 fatalities were attributed to motorcycle accidents, Livingston said.

Europe is a very challenging environment for motorcycle riders, especially new and novice riders with little or no experience, said Livingston. Based on this, only DOD-sponsored servicemembers, civilians and their family members with prior experience and a current motorcycle endorsement on their U.S. driver’s license can obtain a U.S. Army Europe motorcycle license.

Proper training and personal protective equipment is critical, said Livingston. Unlike an automobile, motorcycle accidents are a lot less forgiving. When an accident is unavoidable, a motorcyclist’s personal protective equipment can protect them from serious injury or death.

Personal protective equipment includes a helmet certified by the Department of Trans-



Photos by Christine June

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Wideman from the 226th Medical Logistics Battalion completes a left turn during the third exercise of the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern’s Motorcycle Safety Foundation Training Course at the Motorcycle Range on Kapaun Air Station, Germany. Out of 109 Army private motor vehicle fatalities in fiscal year 2009, 32 fatalities were attributed to motorcycle accidents.

portation; impact or shatter resistant goggles, wraparound glasses or a full-face shield; long sleeved shirt or jacket; long trousers; sturdy footwear, leather boots or over the ankle shoes; and full fingered gloves or mittens designed for motorcycle use.

A brightly colored upper outer garment should be worn during daylight hours, and a highly reflective upper outer garment should be worn during the hours of limited visibility.

Every person who owns a motorcycle or is thinking about buying a motorcycle should seek out opportunities to improve their awareness and their capabilities.

By regulation, the Army requires that all Soldiers who operate motorcycles, both on and off post, attend the Motorcycle Safety Foundation’s Basic Rider Course. Chapter 11-9b of Army Regulation 385-10 states that commanders may also offer the MSF’s Experienced Rider



Thor King, an Army contractor from Mannheim, Germany, fastens his helmet before the final exercise at U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern.

Course in addition to the basic course, but not in lieu of the basic course. However, anyone who has documentation of prior completion of the Experienced Rider Course will be in compliance with the Army standard for motorcycle training and will not be required to attend the basic course.

Motorcycle riders should visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center’s POV and Motorcycle Safety website at <https://safety.army.mil/povmotorcyclesafety> and the center’s Motorcycle Mentorship Program website at <https://safety.army.mil/MMP> for more information. Another resource for motorcycle riders is the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at <http://www.msf-usa.org>. For motorcycle licensing and training information in your local area, contact the Driver’s Testing Station and Safety Office.

JMRC units receive awards for excellence

Continued from page 10

“It’s all about training to your right and left. If they’re not trained, you’re going to fail,” he said.

Lt. Col. Dennis Wedding, JMRC S-4, praised Thompson and other noncommissioned officers that worked with him to win the awards in consecutive years.

“All the credit goes to Master Sgt. Thompson. He’s the work horse,” Wedding said. “We have outstanding NCOs here at JMRC.”

The JMRC units were among others honored, March 23, during a Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion in Heidelberg, Germany.

The CLEA program encompasses three distinct awards — the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence, the Deployment Excellence Award and the Supply Excellence Award. The program combines the recognition of USA-REUR and IMCOM-E organizations. Each award is presented in multiple categories.

Gen. Carter Ham, USAREUR commander, said this year’s awards were noteworthy because continued deployments over the past eight years have made the already tough process of competing for CLEAs even more difficult.

“It’s not like 10 years ago, when you could focus your entire unit’s energy on preparing for this award,” said Ham. “The way we do business today in the Army, if you don’t have sound systems — if you don’t have excellent systems — no surge or special effort is going to allow you to be good enough to win these awards.”

Organizations earn the awards based on an entry packet containing the unit’s profile and descriptions of its achievements during the previous 12 months, followed by rigorous on-site evaluations by subject-matter experts.

Preparing for the award and evaluation is a small piece of the process. What really earns CLEAs is the service units provide day in and day out, Ham said.

“It’s more than just that packet,” Ham said. “It’s the hours and days and weeks of extra effort to ensure that your unit is indeed excellent in all that it does.”

Troops capitalize on GI Bill’s transferability

by John J. Kruzal

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — More than 100,000 requests from troops desiring to transfer their unused education benefits to family members have been approved under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, a defense official said, April 22.

Signed into law in June 2008, the new GI Bill is a Department of Veteran Affairs-sponsored program that provides the most comprehensive educational benefit package for veterans since the original GI Bill — the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 — was authorized toward the end of World War II.

A provision in the new bill, which permits service members to transfer their unused educational entitlement to a spouse or child, has transferred “months of benefit eligibility to over 240,000 family members,” Robert Clark, assistant director of accession policy for the office of the under-secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told lawmakers today.

“To date, over 105,000 requests from career service members have been approved,” Clark said in a prepared statement to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, “transferring months of benefit eligibility to over 240,000 family members.”

Clark said the Defense Department plays two main roles in the joint effort with the Department of Veterans Affairs in addition to allowing for transferability.

“The department’s first role in the successful implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill is the sharing of service data with VA,” he said. “We recognize the road to becoming a veteran always entails passage through service in the military. Accurate reporting of that service is vital to the determination of eligibility for all post-service education benefits.”

The other role, he said, centers on the ability to offer supplemental educational benefits, commonly called “kickers.” But while kickers are authorized under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the statute as written does not allow the department to use them, Clark noted, so officials have asked for an amendment to rectify the situation.

“To allow the services to use Post-9/11 GI Bill kickers, we requested a technical amendment in our 2011 legislative proposal package for the (fiscal) 2011 National Defense Authorization Bill to allow the service



to make deposits into the (Education Benefits Fund),” he said, “and for VA to draw reimbursement from the EBF for kickers associated with the Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits.”

Clark said the Defense Department recognizes its duty to staff the all-volunteer military with high-quality, motivated and well-trained men and women.

“As we move through the 21st century,” he said, “we must continue to build upon the remarkable legacy of the visionaries who crafted the original and preceding versions and improvements to the GI Bill.”

Speaking about the GI Bill last year, President Barack Obama said it was designed “to renew our commitment to ensure that the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America get the opportunities that they have earned.”

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, Obama said in August, is as important as the original, and likewise recognizes service members for their wartime service and represents “an investment in our own country.”

Retreats benefit families and single Soldiers

Continued from page 11

Spots on the family retreats scheduled for May and July quickly filled up, but we are taking names on the waiting list in case of cancellation.

The benefits of retreats are not limited to married couples and families. From April 23-25 the Chaplain Family Life Center took close to 45 single Soldiers on a retreat to Edelweiss Lodge and Resort. Practical training included skills to help each Soldier grow and develop solid healthy relationships. Soldiers also had time to explore the area and participate in many recreational activities to relieve stress. When

they returned to post, they had a second wind for the mission at hand.

In addition to providing opportunities for renewal on weekend retreats, the Chaplain Family Life Center supports Hohenfels’ Soldiers and families every day through various programs on post.

Hohenfels community members attended a ribbon cutting and open house of the newly renovated Chaplain Family Life Center in Building 747, April 22, where we shared our support programs for military children and families. After Chaplain (Col.) Carl Young from Grafenwoehr,

and Col. John Spiszer, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander, cut the ribbon to relaunch the center, attendees toured the center and enjoyed lunch and cake.

We at the Chaplain Family Life Center are as committed as ever to taking care of our most treasured resource: our people — Soldiers, military spouses and military children. Swing by Building 747 behind the commissary and come fly with us on the wings of renewed relationships.

Editor’s Note: Chaplain (Capt.) Donald Smith is a family life chaplain at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels’ Chaplain Family Life Center.

Go home!

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, www.grafenwoehr.army.mil, for up-to-date news, events and much more.

Earth Day teaches kids value of recycling

Continued from page 1

Soldiers, school children and community members joined the movement and the sun participated by poking out from behind the clouds for most of the morning.

Environmental exhibits and youth-focused activities contoured the site with conservation, recycling and renewable energy as prominent themes of the day.

Community members tested their ecofriendly I.Q. and rummaged through recycled treasures at the flea market. Children got their hands dirty as they constructed craft projects with reusable materials and planted geraniums using compost-based soil.

“A compost pile is nature’s way of recycling,” explained Margit Ranz, environmental engineer, Separate or Recycle Trash (SORT), to the children.

Ranz hoped the hands-on activities will arm children with a desire to create environmentally sound habits in the future.

“We show them that the environment is interesting,” she said. “These activities spark all of their senses and will hopefully teach them more about the environment and how they can continue to help.”

The final task, building a bird’s nest out of hay and moss, proved to be the most challenging.

“Birds must work hard,” said 8-year-old Latrell Bowen-Davis. “But they recycle in their own way – using stuff they find to build a home.”

In terms of environmental protection, a lot has happened since the first Earth Day. Still, it is more important than ever to preserve our environment, to use energy and resources efficiently and responsibly and, thus, help sustain the very planet on which we live.

For Abriah Batts, a fourth-grader Grafenwoehr Elementary School, becoming a steward of the environment is easy, and she amply does her part to contribute to environmental awareness.

“I help by recycling,” said Batts. “If we don’t, everything gets put in a big landfill under the dirt and it makes our environment dirty.”

“Recycling makes our earth cleaner and better,” she said.

Other highlights of the Earth Day celebration included renewable energy demonstrations, which showcased sun and wind energy, and insights concerning garrison conservation initiatives and electronic equipment disposal.

Disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment in regular trash is prohibited by German law, according to Helmut Bueller, waste management officer for SORT.

Bueller felt the Earth Day celebration was an important avenue to inform the public how to properly recycle and how it may differ from what they are used to in the United States.

“We show them what they can and cannot recycle and how the process of each community works,” said Bueller, adding the information is available through the SORT office. “We are



Students and family members dig through soil made from compost and plant geraniums and sunflowers with the help of the City of Weiden. Numerous activities contoured the site of the Earth Day celebration at the Main Post Exchange promoting conservation, recycling and renewable energy.

here to help.”

The all-day celebration kept children and adults engaged in educational fun, but also stressed the importance of long-term thinking.

“Protecting the environment cannot be done by one office; it must be done by everyone, every day,” said Ranz.

Diana Barta, 11, agreed.

“It’s easy if we all pitch in,” said Barta. “We can make the earth better for everyone.”

SORT, the city of Weiden, County Office Neustadt Waldnaab, Integrated Training Area Management and the Energy Office and Utilities Branch, Department of Public Works, Grafenwoehr, all contributed to the success of the Earth Day celebration.

Extras mingle with stars in Garmisch

Continued from page 18

brought dozens of excited reports of Brooke Shields sightings by community members. While the film features a number of well-known British actors, Shields was most recognized by the American community. Being tall and one of the most photographed women of the past 35 years made her easy to spot.

Then came the first big shoot.

“It was the hardest 45 euros I ever earned,” said Rachel Stone, a ski and swim instructor, referring to the ballroom scene filmed at the grand Sonnenbichel Hotel on the north edge of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. In borrowed evening gown, high heels and jewelry, she and others spent about 12 hours standing around between takes. “My feet were killing me!”

Hays gave a first-person account of how the production worked, beginning with their reporting time of 7 a.m. for two and a half hours of wardrobe, make-up and hair styling for the ladies, a “do’s and don’ts” briefing, and filling out the paperwork to get paid.

“The extras were on the set from around 10 a.m. until after 6 p.m. with a break for lunch,” said Hays, adding it was the first time for him on a movie set. “It was a long day of standing around, running through rehearsals and then several film takes. By the end of the day, I felt very sorry for the ladies in their high-heeled shoes.”

Jay Proctor, Outdoor Recreation, was chosen for a close-up scene with Shields.

“They did some shots with us in the foreground, away from the rest of the ballroom crowd,” said Proctor. “Brooke did several takes where she brushed past between me and a table.”

Shields and fellow stars Nicholas Braun and Bill Nighby took time to chat with the extras between concentrating on finding their marks and delivering their lines.

“Nighby was cool,” said Proctor. “He was very professional. The director came up to give him instructions, and then just waved off; (he could tell) Bill knew what to do.”

Hays even got a rare photo opportunity with Shields and Braun, standing next to Shields where millions of men have longed to be.

“I’m sure this would not have happened if I had not been wearing a kilt,” said Hays.

The filming on Germany’s highest Alpine peak took place April 19-20, using the bulk of the extras. To be part of the scene, one only needed to have winter clothes suitable for 9,718 feet. A handful of skiers or snowboarders were chosen for close-ups as an American team. In return, extras got paid and a cog-train and cable car ticket to the top of Bavaria.

Summing up the experience, Hays said it was interesting and that the director and the production company were focused on their work but treated the extras nicely.

“The work was long, hot and tiring. I probably would not do it again, though,” Hays said. “Unless I can wear a kilt!”



Photo by Susan Steinke

Left to right: Actors Nicholas Braun and Brooke Shields pose for a shot with Thomas Hays, U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch deputy manager and head of the Directorate of Public Works. Each member of the trio stands six feet tall and up.

Training area recognized for its wildlife conservation

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Grafenwoehr military base, an area of 23,000 hectares, which is used intensively for training by the U.S. Army.

The different objectives of safeguarding the military use, sustainable forestry, biodiversity and wildlife conservation have to be attained simultaneously. These complex objectives have been achieved with remarkable success, as shown by audits, evaluations and ongoing scientific research on red deer. In the last two decades the area has regenerated an outstanding indigenous fauna and flora with many species, which have become extinct or endangered in other parts of Germany.

“This could be achieved only because the U.S. forces demonstrate an extraordinary understanding for the conservation of nature and wildlife in the Grafenwoehr training area and we enjoy an excellent cooperation,” said Forstdirektor Ulrich Maushake, the head of the Federal Forest Office.

Hunting is practiced to manage, conserve and use wildlife on a sustainable basis, to promote biodiversity and at the same time to contribute to the revenues of the whole enterprise. Each year around 1,500 red deer are harvested.

Hunting, of red deer in particular, is organized in a way that minimizes disturbance, achieves a natural age and sex structure of game, and improves the spatial distribution. As a consequence red deer are diurnally active and graze the open grasslands.

Damage to trees in the forest has been reduced greatly and is at a negligible level, even though the red deer now occur at very high densities. At the same time the deer help to keep the grass steppe open, which is an ecological and military objective. In this way the deer serve as “landscape architects.”

Red deer numbers seem to have reached an optimum although rather vigorous hunting is needed to keep the population at that level. The enterprise’s staffs do not see a contradiction between professional and scientifically based hunting strategies and traditional German hunting culture. During hunting, therefore, typical German traditions are maintained.

Perhaps more important, the experience of the Federal Forest Enterprise at Grafenwoehr has proven that hunting can be an important instrument of biodiversity conservation and that professional and nature-friendly hunting strategies allow high densities of larger hoofed animals, aiding conservation and biodiversity objectives.

NSPS is kaput

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Although employees will not lose pay during the transition, those who transition into the top step in their grade level (Step 10) will only receive half of the yearly increase.

Carolyn Beiter, a civilian misconduct specialist for U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s Directorate of Human Resources, falls into this category.

“I probably won’t see any difference, so NSPS was better for me. I’m sad to see it go,” said Beiter, who plans to retire in 2012.

Masko said he liked the theory behind the NSPS system, that if employees performed well, they were rewarded.

Laura Peck, an education services officer, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Education Center, disagreed.

“I’m glad to see it go,” she said. “I thought it was labor intensive ... As under-resourced as most organizations are, we don’t really have the time to dedicate to properly rating those people. I was a product of the old GS system, so it’s easy to transition back.”

Each question employees asked caused additional hands to shoot up as Masko and CPAC subject matter experts responded. Representatives asked employees to be patient and said the details of the transition are still under negotiation.

Although the verdict has been given by Congress to make the transition, the jury is still out for a majority of employees on which system is better.

“(Under NSPS) I had the experience but wasn’t getting paid ... but I’ll be compensated now,” said Robinson, who began her civilian career in 2004 as a GS-7 and is currently a GS-11.

How do you feel about the NSPS to GS transition?



“I’m glad we’re going back to GS ... I had the experience but wasn’t getting paid, but I’ll be compensated now.”

Sheri Robinson, Domestic Appliance Program Manager



“I probably won’t see any difference, so NSPS was better for me. I’m sad to see it go.”

Carolyn Beiter, Civilian Misconduct Specialist



“I’m glad to see it go. I thought it was labor intensive ... I was a product of the old GS system, so it’s easy to transition back.”

Laura Peck, Education Services Officer



“(NSPS) kind of looked fair. If you did well, you were rewarded. But it only works as well as the supervisors.”

Helmut Diehl, Training Specialist

“I’m definitely ready to go to a (GS) 12 or 13 (position). I’m a fast tracker.”

For more information on the General Schedule transition, visit www.cpmosd.mil/nsps. Visit <http://federaljobs.net/salarybase.htm>, for the 2010 General Schedule pay chart.

Have a story idea?
Call DSN 475-7113, CIV 09641-83-7113.